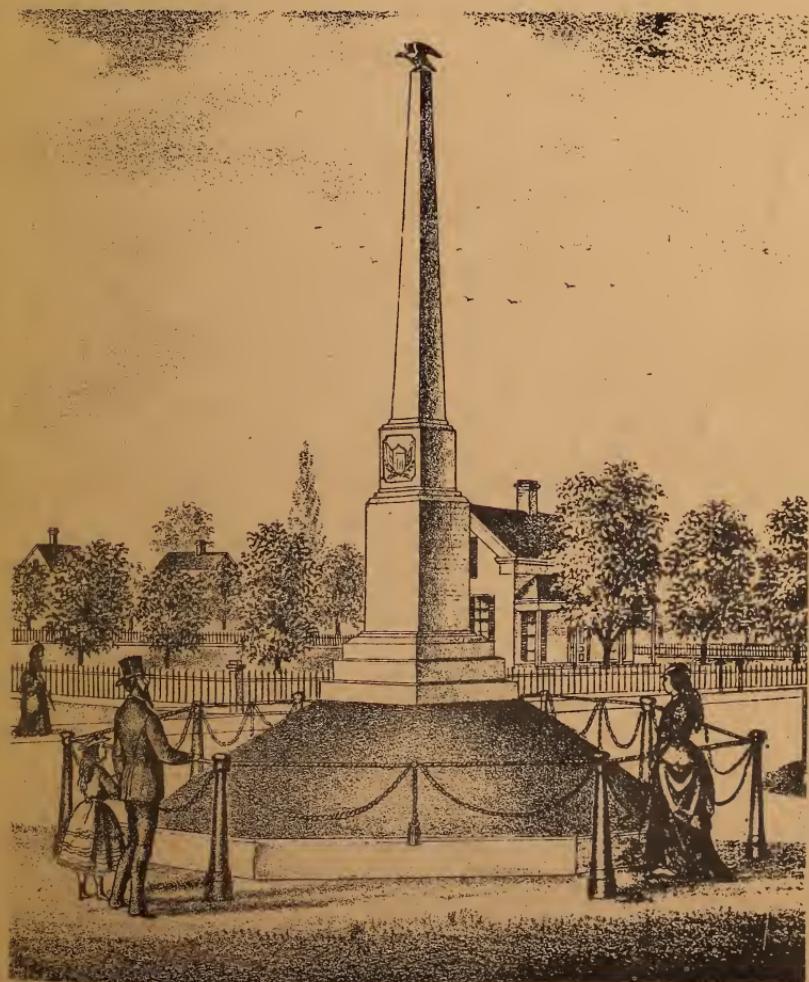


Chatham

Sesquicentennial



MEMORIAL MONUMENT. CHATHAM CENTRE, MEDINA CO. OHIO.
ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF THE SOLDIERS OF CHATHAM TP. WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TO THE SERVICE OF THEIR
COUNTRY, DURING THE REBELLION.

1818 - 1968



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#30

10.00

Prologue to the Future

On this 150th anniversary of the birth of our town, we hope to bring you closer to those courageous pioneers who carved their homes from the wilderness.

Our reenactments and recreations can never truly envision for you the hardships these people endured.

In a world full of stress, war, crime, and poverty, the perseverance of these first settlers in making their dreams of a better home and life a reality, should inspire us in this age, to make the same giant steps forward they did.

Our sesquicentennial committees hope to take you back to those days for a glance into a past that has brought us many things we take for granted today.

Alfred C. Taylor
Chairman of Chatham Sesqui.
1968

Sesquicentennial Officers

Chairman.....Alfred C. Taylor
Vice Chairman.....Alvin Clapp
Secretary.....Phyllis Siman
Treasurer.....Phyllis Grim

HISTORY OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Chatham township was a pilgrim colony. The desire for freedom and civilization, which landed with the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock and spread over New England, passed into the broad and vast domain west of the Alleghany. Many of the first settlers of Chatham Township, trace their ancestry back to families which came over on the Mayflower and like their forefathers, these settlers found their lot in many respects, similar to that of their Pilgrim ancestors.

Chatham Township was set apart under the Connecticut Land Survey, and was a part of the Connecticut Western Reserve, formed 1786. The northren part known as the Wadsworth tract and the south half the Hinckley Tract.

The first settlement, on land which now belongs to Chatham Township, was made by Moses Parsons in the year 1818. He bought a tract of several hundred acres of land located about three miles north of Harrisville Center. (Now, 150 years later, the spot is located on the east side of the east branch of Black River on the Leonard Lance farm.)

In the month of February, 1818, Mr. Parsons started with his wife and four children, three sons and one daughter,, from his home near the town of Muddlesex, now Yates, Ontario County-New York. They came with two yoke of oxen and one span of horse bringing their scanty supply of household furniture, necessary provisions and a small lot of farming implements and tools. They came by sled during the winter months when the ground was covered with snow. It took them seven weeks from New York state through northren Pennsylvania and through northeastern Ohio. They arrived at the Harrisville settlement in the middle of April. Mrs. Parsons (Elizabeth Croft) and two children stayed with the family of Mr. Bisby in Harrisville while Mr. Parsons started with two of his boys, and their belongings, to the tract of land he had bought, to make a clearance and erect a place of habitation.

They ascended the bluff on the east side of the east Branch of Black River, and cut their way through the woods, northward to their destination. They selected a spot on which they placed their stake for a new home. A clearing was commenced, trees chopped down, logs rolled together and the building of a little log cabin was under progress. Within four weeks the primitive structure was complete. The logs had been put together in a quadrangular shape and the crevices patched with sticks and mud; Heavy sticks and branches had been put overhead, an opening in one side, over hung by a blanket which served as a door. After this was complete, Mr. Parsons and the boy cut a winding roadway through the woods to the Harrisville settlement. He brought his family and all their possessions to their new home. They cleared small patches of land and by late fall were able to harvest a small crop of grain and potatoes. For several years they lived here alone, almost entirely isolated, in their habitation. Harrisville people were their nearest neighbors and they got their supplies from them. Packs of wolves and bears roamed the woods and were a terror and annoyance to the settler.

A great event occurred in the summer of 1820 when a son was born to the Parsons family. He was named Holden by the family and the father named the settlement Holden, after the first child born in the Colony. It was known by that name until the political organization of the township, on December 5, 1833, when it was called Chatham, after the town near London, in England.

Henry K. Joline, from New York state followed the Parsons family to Chatham in July 1820; married Eleanor H. Parsons, the eldest daughter of Moses and Elizabeth Parson. This was the first marriage in the new settlement. Two of her brothers were DeForest, a minister of the Gospel and Eraster. The young couple built a cabin on a tract of land a little to the northwest, which the young husband had bought.

In the fall of 1820, Nathan Hall, afterward's known as Deacon Hall, moved his family from Connecticut, and settled one and one half miles west

of the Parsons settlement.

By persistant hard work, Mr. Parson and his sons soon had a large share of his farm under cultivation. He had planted an acre or so of ground with young apple trees, which in the course of six or eight years, began to bear fruit. His grain fields grew in size and in a few years he had a considerable patch of growing meadow and fields.

In 1821 Amos Ulter, with his family settled on a tract of land about a mile west of Mr. Parsons farm.

A few years later, in the Northwest corner of Chatham township a group of colonists from Virginia settled in an area that was known as "New Columbus". Among them were Phenias and Truman Davis, Isaac Van-
eviates, William Nolt and Orrin Parmeter. They formed a colony among themselves on the low lands near Black River and had little or no communication with their neighbors, four miles southeast. Their culture was a "boppy-go-easy" style of the South, very different from the "straight laced" New Englanders. They erected shanties and made no great progress clearing the land. Phénias Davis put up a little "pocket" grist mill, to which he shortly added a small distillery. Most of those people soon left this section and migrated elsewhere leaving no trace today of "New Columbus".

In the meantime another group of people settled in the southwest part of the township. Several families had come from Massachusetts and settled in the neighborhood of the Parsons settlement. Among them were Nebidiat Cass, William Goodwin and Pleasant Qeazle.

By 1826, ten families were permanantly located on the Hinckley tract, which comprised the southern half of the Township. The northern half was under control of the Wadsworth Brothers, of Massachusetts, and was known as the Wadsworth Tract.

In November, 1832, Ebenezer Shaw, with his wife and family of three children, arrived and took possession of several hundred acres of land on the

Hinckley Tract, for which he had traded his farm near Cummington, Mass. Mr. Shaw was a class-mate of William Cullen Bryant in the public school of their native Cummington, Mass. Young Shaw was also, like his chum, Willie Bryant, quite a hand at "verse-making", and always fostered a love for poetry. In their early school years, he had become even more distinguished among his friends for his talent than his friend Bryant. However, Bryant went to Williams College, from there to New York and into the temple of fame; his friend, Ebenezer Shaw, married and settled and cultivated a farm, and joined the pioneer band that transformed the unbroken forest of the West, into bright and glowing fields. In company with Shaw and his family, came Barney Daniel, with his wife and five children and Joll Lynn and his wife and their children, all who came from the town of Plainfield, a short distance from Cummington, in the county of Hampshire, Mass. The three families traveled together by wagon to Iraz, New York and from there took passage on a canal-boat on the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and thence sailed on a little lake craft to Cleveland. Two days later they arrived in Medina having made the journey by wagons from Cleveland. They stayed overnight at a little tavern then serving the public; the next morning they proceeded toward the Harrisville settlement by way of Chippewa Lake and Morse's Corners, reaching Lodi the following afternoon. The next morning they moved into the new settlement. The first thing they did was make a shelter for man and beast. In many instances, the settlers erected a "bush hut", erecting four corner-posts, and with cut poles and brush covering the top. They would usually serve until a more substantial structure, with enclosed sides and a fireplace, could be erected. Winter was close at hand when these three Massachusetts families arrived in the Chatham settlement. They experienced severe discomfort in locating on account of the blustery storms of the season.

Ebenezer Shaw located with his family in a log cabin that had been previously erected by Moses Parsons, but, the other two families were not as fortunate.

The following spring, more families from Mass. arrived. John Shaw and wife, with two grown-up daughters came. Also, Randall Dyer, with a family of five children arrived in the settlement. Others who came were Iram, Amonso, William Francis; Josiak, Jonathon and Phillip Packard with their families. Lemuel Alli, Gideon Gardner and Daniel Richard were also among the newcomers. They had all come from the Bay States by way of Troy, New York; the Erie Canal to Buffalo, by boat to Cleveland and then by slow stage and wagon into the interior settlement. Every new colonizer was greeted with joy by the older settlers. The new arrival told of news from home and adventure along the way. In turn the settlers gave well-meant advise and substantial aid to the new arrival.

One of the difficulties that beset the pioneers in the new land was that of roadways. Several years after Moses Parsons had settled in the township, by an act of the Legislature, a road was built from north to south, running from Elyria in Lorain County, to Wooster, in Wayne County. The construction of township roads did not begin until the year 1834 by order of the County Commissioners. The first one was West River Road going west from the Elyria-Wooster road, one and one-half miles north of Lodi and leading into the low lands along Black River, which by this time was well settled. Several years later, there was a center road, passing through the township from east to west.

Another perplexing problem at that time was a medium of exchange, "These were terribly tough times with us," one settler expressed; "we could not get money of any kind. --could not sell anything above our own needs, we took to Elyria, and there sold it for half in trade and half in money, and none of us would scarcely ever return with more than \$5.00 or \$6.00 in coins. This would sometimes have to do us for a year or more. Ten Bushels of wheat were offered for a single pound of tea.

The early settlers, after wearing out their woolen pantaloons, were obliged to have them

seated and kneed with buckskin, in which they attended church. It was almost impossible to raise wool, because of the abundance of wolves, who destroyed the sheep.

In 1845, another frost had also occured. Crops exposed were completely destroyed, and a severe drought that followed completed the sum of misery. To this was added a swarm of grasshoppers. They attached to buildings, fences and tools with such vigor as to cause considerable damage. Farmers, who usually mowed fifty ton of hay scarcely got one, and the tools used in the fields had to be hid to keep the woodwork from being made too rough to use by this swarm of insects.

Records tell of a later frost that did great damage to many crops. In 1859 a killing frost occurred on a Saturday night in June. In the morning the frost left hardly a crop alive. Corn was about eight to ten inches high. Potatoes and all the grain was ruined and people found themselves face to face with near starvation. This situation caused statewide alarm.

In regard to postal arrangements a settler said, "Our letters arrived at the Harrisville Post Office, and were directed 'Township 2, Range 16'. Every letter we received cost us 2 cents, and it went quite hard with us many times to draw our letters for want or need of sufficient funds. Many letters remained in the post office for months, because the owners did not have money enough to pay delivery.

On the fffth of December, 1833, a separate political organization of Chatham Township was effected, forming Township 18, in the succession of organization in Medina County. The first board of Township Trustees elected at the first town election consisted of Nebediah Cass, Iram Packard and Joel Lyon. In the spring of 1835, Orin Shaw was elected the first Justice of the Peace in the township. Orin Shaw and Thomas N. Palmer were opposing candidates. Mr. Shaw had one vote majority. Moses Parsons and Thomas N. Palmer contested that election. A trial of strength of influence

was had a second time, which being illegal was set aside. A new election was ordered. Brin Shaw and Amasa Packard Jr., were the opposing candidates, and Shaw was elected by a majority of two votes.

With the separation into a civil organization, the inhabitants of the colony became inspired with a new life. They were dependent now; the Harrisville people who had a civil organization for more than fifteen years, were apt to look upon their Chatham neighbors in a patronizing way, and considered them merely as a political appendage. During the succeeding years, Chatham has served a prominent place in political history of Medina County.

During the Abolition movement before the Civil War, some of the citizens of this township became noted for their active and decisive support of this cause. The predominate sentiments of the people of Chatham was strongly anti-slavery. Out of an average of about two hundred and fifty votes-one hundred and seventy-five took side with the party that abolished slavery and suppressed rebellion. In this year of 1968 two hundred and forty-three voted at the May Primary.

A few years after the formation of the township, the families of Luther and Levi Clapp and Alain Thayer moved from the East, settling on the Wadsworth tract, in the northern half of the township. This half, which had not been so early colonized as the southern part, was now rapidly becoming settled. It was about the year 1838, after the east and west road had been located and cut through, that several houses, of somewhat more imposing shape than most of the little farm cabins that were scattered over the township, were erected at the center.

Lemual Allis built the first frame house in Chatham in 1834. It was the house north of the cemetery and was nearly destroyed by fire a few years ago. During the Civil War there was an underground railroad located there. A tunnel was built from the basement to a barn some distance away. Escaped slaves hid there until it was safe to proceed toward Canada. The remains of the tunnel can still be seen in the nearly demolished basement of the house. Clayton

Hartman, Hubert Allis and Ira and Charles Grim are great-grandsons of Lemuel and Lydia Beals Allis. Many other descendants are residents of Chatham.

The general interest of the township gradually drifted toward the center. Elections and "town" meetings were held in a log school house that had been put up at the village, it also served the purpose of a union meeting-house for the different denominations.

A great event that marked an epoch in the history of the township was the establishment of a country store. This occurred in the fall of 1839. The arrival of goods in Chatham caused great rejoicing among its inhabitants who had previously done their business at Lodi. Mr. Josiah Packard invested his capital and energy in the enterprise. He started in the summer with two ox teams, for the city of Pittsburg, taking with him a cargo of grain and produce. He returned after several months with a full supply of "store" goods. His neighbors anxiously awaited his return. A frame structure had been erected at the corner of the Lafayette road, one mile south of the center, and here Mr. Packard opened a regular "country" store. Eli Goodell also had a small store at the center, and a short time later, an ashery and small grocery was also established there by the firm of Webster and Packard. In 1843 Randall Dyer & Son located a general store at the village. A postoffice was established in 1844. Mr. William Jordan was the first appointed Postmaster. The mail route extended from Lodi to the village, Coleb Edson carrying the mail on foot, once a week, between the two points. Later Chatham formed a station on the Wooster and Elyria mail line and had two daily mails.

Jonathan Packard erected the first saw mill in the western part of the township. Haratio Lyons, in 1845, brought in a saw mill from Seville and erected it a short distance southeast of the center on Branch River.

In 1868 Mr. Dan P. Nellows erected a cheese-factory, the largest of it's kind in Medina County. This was located east of Chatham on what is now the

the Ira Grim farm. In 1873 Chatham produced 401,615 pounds of cheese. It used the milk from twelve to fifteen hundred cows.

Located in the village was a harness shop, tin shop and two shoe repairing places. Miss Permilia Ripley conducted a millinery shop and Kiegan's tailor shop provided the gentlemen with made-to-order suits. There was a blacksmith shop and a hotel once occupied the southwest corner of the square. This was destroyed by fire sometime later; however, a wing of the building is now a dwelling house on the Arters farm, north of Chatham. Francis Packard kept a stock of drugs in the building that once housed the Chatham Telephone Co. and is now used for storage. The house occupied by the Kenneth Welsh family, east of the gas station was at one time a church and later Wales Dyer carried on a dry goods and general store there. Later it was taken over by Joe Bricker, who specialized in hardware, farm supplies and groceries, and many years later a barber shop. The Packard store was sold to Wales Dyer who continued there until his death when it was carried on by his grandson, Blake Morrell, until 1930 when Frank Swartz bought the business. Five years later he sold it to Stanley Long who now has Chatham's only general store.

The people of Chatham Township have stood out prominently among their neighbors for their patriotic zeal and interest in national affairs. Many of its sons joined the ranks of the Union Army, and bled and died for their country. A grand recognition by the people of the township stands as the "Soldier's Monument", that was erected in the public square of Chatham Village. The Chatham Monumental Association was formed in the fall of 1865 at the Congregational Church in the village. Luther Clapp was chosen President; Edward Talbott, Treasurer; A.W. Richards, Secretary. The Board of Directors were Jonathan Packard, J.C. Vance, J.M. Black, Thomas S. Shaw, S.C. Ripley, N.R. Mantz, D. Palmer, Luther Clapp and S.H. McConnell. Subscription books were opened and voluntary aid solicited. The people gave with open hands and free hearts. Before winter had passed away, nearly \$1,600. had been accumulated. A committee consisting of Luther Clapp, Jonathan Packard, S.C. Ripley, Edward

Talbott and A.W. Richards was elected to purchase a monument and select a site on which it should be erected. A contract was entered with a Cleveland firm, and by June 20, it stood completed on its present site in the center of the village. Dedicatory services were held the fourth of July, 1866. People came from all directions to attend the celebration. The services opened with an invocation by the Rev. William Moody. The martial band played and the Chatham Glee Club same. The following is a song written for the dedication by Caroline Clapp Beach, a poet of renown, grandmother of Lillian Beach Williams and aunt of Dorothy Arters.

"FAREWELL TO WAR"

To wars and camps we bid farewell
And hope with you at home to dwell,
Since we have made the rebels run
And fairly now the victory won.

Rebellion long did hold its sway
But now we hope it crushed will stay,
At least we hope 'twill keep away
From our beloved U.S.A.

For when we came from war and stripe
To lead with you a peaceful life,
You gave us welcome with good wills
Instead of a small box of pills.

And then prompt action you did take
For us a monument to make,
And so of you our praise shall sound,
Wherever monuments are found.

Col. Allan W. Richards read the "Declaration of Independence and Rev. G.S. Davis delivered an oration. A grand "Month of July" dinner was eaten by all. The dedication proper, of the monument, then commenced. Dedicatory prayer by Rev. DeForrest Parsons was given. Rev. Parsons was son of Moses Parsons, the first settler family in Chatham. The Honorable Harrison G. Blake, Ohio Senator whose home was in Medina, gave the oration. It was a special day, and will cling to the memory of the people of Chatham as long as the shapely mass of stone that commemorates the

noble dead of her sons stands in its midst. The monument stands upon an octagon-shaped mound; its foundation is solid Berea stone, the sub-base is a marble block four feet square and three feet high. Upon this stand the marble shaft, which is surmounted by the American eagle, cut out of Parian marble. On the four sides of the shaft the names of the soldiers who enlisted in Chatham Township are engraved, with the date of enlistment and their commands. A. Main Jr, one of the soldiers who enlisted, planted a lilac bush by his home. It was to be a living memorial to his memory in case he never came back. Sad to relate, he was one of those who never returned. He died at Johnson's Island, April 4, 1865. The lilac bush still grows where he planted it at the Charles Herr residence on County Road 50.

The church history of Chatham Township begins with records of its first settlement. The Parsons family were devout Methodists. In 1832 the Methodist Church was organized. First circuit riders were secured and services were held in cabins or barns until a regular church building was constructed, in the village, in 1850. The first Congregational Church was organized in 1835 and the Dunkard Society of the Brethren in 1845. In the 1930's the Four Square Gospel Church, north of the village, was organized. In 1966 the United Church of Christ Congregational and the Methodist Church united in one common parish with a shared minister. This is a part of an ecumenical movement that may someday join all denominations.

The Chatham township Sunday School Association was organized September 10, 1897. A canvas was made of the township by school districts and an association was formed with representatives from the Brethren, Congregational and Methodist Churches. This group has continued to meet each fall at a religious festival at one of the three churches.

A township bible school we started about 1933, meeting first at the school house and then later rotating between the churches. The average attendance over the years has been around one hundred.

The history of Chatham Schools begin with the

founding of the Western Reserve in 1786, when it was stipulated that certain land was to be set aside for educational purposes. By an act of Congress in 1803 it was established that 1/36 of the land should be used for schools. It was from the sale of these lands that the early schools were financed. True to the tradition of those settling the Western Reserve, their first thought was to establish churches and schools.

The first schools were in cabin homes. Mrs. George Cook, of Litchfield Township, in 1827, had a private school. Several years later Vesta Richards conducted a school of 14 pupils. It was a labor of love with little or no pay. Mrs. Lucinda Clapp in 1836 had a subscription school held in her home. She furnished room, fuel and labor and received \$2.00 a week, for 26 pupils. She was E.T. Clapp's grandmother.

The first school house was built about 1833 at Geisinger's Corners. Text books were very scarce. They used the bible, old spelling books and old English readers. They had no paper, only bark shingles and slate. About 1838 a cluster of houses formed the village of Chatham. A log school house was built, which served for school and church. The first school in the center stood where the Pitz home now is. It burned and after that the school was located at the town hall. The original benches are still in the building.

Early names of students were Shaw, Packard, Allis, Clapp, and Dyer. In 1843 the township was divided into eight sub-districts. Each district had a frame school house erected and furnished as best they could. It is interesting to note that all eight of these school houses are still in existence. The school at Risley, a little railroad village on Smith Road (County Road 4) is now being used as a barn on the Dyke farm there. The school house in the Garver District (the old Parkhill School) is now part of the the house of the Douglas Gottron's., on Co. Road 67. The old Sears School or Elmwood School as it was called by some, which was west of Chatham on State Route 162 was moved to Chatham and became the Methodist Dining Hall. The Little

Oberlin School on 99 near Black River is a grainary on the old Schroeder place east of there. The Shaw School on the corner of County Road 99 and S. Rt. 76 was moved by Floyd Whitman to his parents home on 76 about a mile north of Lodi and the Lodi depot was moved onto that property and is now an attractive home. The Fusselman School on Co. Rd. 31 and C. Rd. 50 was moved further east to the Charles Herr farm. A school east of Chatham on St. Rt. 162 and 151 was moved to the Wideman farm and another also on that location is now on Co. Rd. 45 on the Erb farm. The school on 76 north of Chatham for many years has been at Chatham Elementary School. Some of the teachers who taught in those schools fifty to seventy-five years ago were Edith Allis Brinker, Bertha Krugge1 Whitman, Clyde Clapp, Miss Emma Webber, Art. Betz, Art Sanford, Catherine Shaw, Grim, Gertrude and Mabel Morrell, Sam Orr, Lillian Beach Williams, Alice Mantz Hange, Lavina Kimball Grim and many others. The schools had belfreys, box stoves that burned long sticks of wood, benches were around the room, & later desks. A common water pail and dipper were used; the teacher was the janitor, sweeping snow, and firing the stove.

Fall and winter terms were usually taught by men and spring and summer by the ladies. Discipline was a problem. The schools were ungraded with pupils of all ages from four to twenty. The law required the school to be open twenty-four weeks a year. The teachers boarded around with families. They received a salary of \$10.00 to \$15.00 a month. Later \$21.00 to 30.00. Men were always paid more than women. There was no compulsory attendance and the older pupils stayed home as soon as spring work started.

Each district had a Board of Directors of three men and a township Bd. composed of one director from each district and a school clerk.

In 1858 select schools were organized in which pupils paid tuition, \$2.00 to \$4.00 per term of twelve weeks. Chatham's was said to have been a most excellent school and pupils came from surrounding townships. It was noted for its good teachers and the business men it produced. After a few years

the need for a larger building was felt. In the spring of 1867 the question of a new academy building was put to a vote and passed by a small majority. In May a contract was let to the lowest bidder for the sum of \$4,846.00. Construction immediately began-and in the spring of 1868 was nearing completion when a newly elected school board refused to honor the contract and declared it void.

The contractor brought suit and won and the matter was settled by arbitration. To finish the building a special tax levy had to be voted for. A fierce contest resulted, but the vote again carried by a small majority. The building was soon completed and opened for a term of school in the spring of 1870, taught by T.B. Randall.

College men taught higher subjects and therefore, Latin, Philosophy and Ancient History were introduced into the course of study.

District schools improved because of better trained teachers-much stress being put on the three "R's". Spelling schools were held evenings, as were literary societies, debate and oratory. Sleigh rides were annual affairs. One school visited another with bob-sleds and teams and had spell downs. Little tribute went to the old district school teachers. They were faithful and conscientious. They had no training but did attend Teachers Institute and read Teachers Magazines.

In the late 90's the need was felt for a more graded method of teaching. So, under the leadership of L. T. Garver, a system of eight grades and a two year High School was established. The first class graduated in 1899. Three or four years later the third year High School was added. The high school in the village drew the older pupils from district schools. The enrollment was consequently smaller in the district schools and some were disbanded. The school north of Chatham on the Ernest Packard farm was moved to town about 1904 and located on the school grounds. It was fitted up for the primary grades, one to four. It was later used for a shop and now for a storage. The South and East districts closed about the same time. Mrs. Ellen

Welton drove the first kid-wagon and continued the work for forty-two years. Many years she drove the horse drawn kid wagons and later by modern school buses. Children in other areas were brought to the village in the same manner. Romey Fleming drove a kid wagon for many years, as did Warner Rowe. Charles and Catherine Grim had a school bus for nineteen years.

County supervision was established in 1914. Mr. Pearce was the first Superintendent. He had five assistants who supervised, visiting the county schools in horse drawn wagons over mud roads.

Complete centralization of the township came about 1916. To accommodate increased enrollment the auditorium of the academy was fitted into classrooms, to which grades 7-11 were assigned. The lower floors was used for three, four, five and six grades and one and two were in the old school building.

Soon after centralization an oil boom struck the town. A number of new families moved in. The addition of these children made a crowded condition. In 1921, state officials inspected the premises and found the old building inadequate and recommended a new building. The proposition was presented to the citizens and voted on in the fall election. The vote carried and immediately the school board submitted plans and contracts. The township was bonded for the amount of \$80,000. The building was started that fall and completed in time for the fall term of 1922. The fourth year was added to the course at that time making it a first-class High School. Mr. Homer Kohli was employed as new principal. He retired in 1952, after 30 years as principal.



The county plan of traveling music teachers originated in Chatham when George Packard visited the old district schools regularly giving instructions in vocal music. This he did several years during the 90's and after the turn of the century. When E.T. Clapp was on the school board he told the county school official of this method of teaching and through his efforts a county wide program was established. The music in our schools has been of the best, both vocal and instrumental with visiting teachers from the county Organization. Art supervision was also added to our culture.

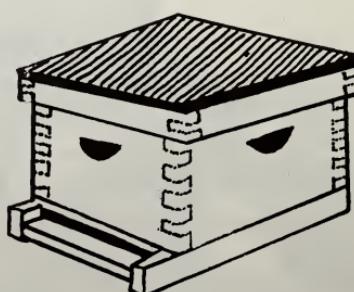
The new gymnasium made athletics almost a major interest. Chatham's basketball teams always stood high in the county tournament placings.

Our first radio system was presented to the school by Miss Ada Bowman, a member of the class of 1901. Ada was a trained nurse who lost her eyesight. The advent of radio meant much to her in her blindness, and when she learned what it was doing for schools she wished to make it her memorial. This was installed in the late 20's by Homer J. Kohli. In those days it was a great thing for the students to hear the broadcast of Charles Lindburgh crossing the Atlantic (May 1927) and the coronation of King Edward V. It was not until in the late 40's that public address systems were installed in many schools. Mr. Kohli added to his general studio knowledge of radio through his "ham" radio he communicated with friends all over the world. He also had a great interest in astrology, grinding his own lenses for his observatory. Many of his students took advantage of this wide range information.



The problem of expanding population, creating over crowding, inadequate curriculum, etc. again became apparent. In 1957 a five township consolidation took place, inviting Harrisville, Lafayette, Seville, LeRoy, and Chatham. During the three years before a high school could be constructed, Chatham students attended Medina High School and Lodi High School. The new Cloverleaf High School was occupied in September, 1960. Because of overcrowded conditions and inadequate courses a Jr. High School building was also indicated. After being on the ballot four times a bond issue passed in the spring of 1968 to build a million and a half dollar school, to be completed in 1970. During the years following the consolidation many new things have been added to the school curriculum. Teaching through classroom television, remedial reader, Diversified Cooperative Training, speech therapy and others. For many years a school health program has been conducted through the Medina Co. Health Dept.

In the late 1860's and 70's F.R. Shaw, working with his friend A.I. Root, developed a large apiary. Here he bred green bees and sold them to apiaries all over the country. He also sent to other countries for different varieties of trees to see which type of blossoms produced the best honey. Some of these strange species of trees may still be found on the old home-stead two miles south of Chatham. There he had a "bee house" where he extracted honey. This was sent in barrels to Chicago.



For over 75 years Chatham has been noted as an oil town. In 1890 a man by the name of Getchie from Wooster, drilled the first oil well, using a water well drilling machine. This well was drilled on the F.R. Shaw place. He pumped the well using horse power and a mowing machine gear. People came from all over the country to see the well and bought oil in barrels and cans. This oil was to be used to start fires for cooking, etc. About three years later, H.B. Odenkirk from Olean, New York, drilled several more wells. About 32 wells were drill in the vicinity of the Shaw farm, in 1890's. Mr. Shaw, took these over, he laid a pipe line from his place to Lodi (2½ miles) to transport the oil. From there it went by railroad to refineries in Cleveland. A few wells were also drilled about this time in the village. Dr. E.L. Moodie had enough to use for cooking and lighting his home. About 1912 more wells were drilled by Mr. Freshwater. The wage paid at that time for drillers were 35¢ an hour and 17½ for tool dressers. The big Chatham Oil Boom started about the end of World War I. E.R. Edson and son from Cleveland opened up the field starting the second Boom. Oil men flocked here from New York and Pennsylvania. Everyone who owned a plot of ground hoped they would be lucky enough to get a good well. Almost every lot in town had its oil well and pumps working away. Farms were cut up and farming was abandoned in many cases for the black gold. The roads were almost impassable. Knee deep in mud in the spring and fall, with deep ruts in bad weather, and ankle deep with dust in the summer. The oil brought many improvements to homes of the fortunate and work to those who had no oil. Many of these wells of fifty years ago are still pumping. The third oil boom started about twenty-five years later in the 1930's. New process of obtaining oil by water flooding was used. This brought forth a great deal more oil but many water wells were spoiled for drinking and streams were polluted. It will be many years before Chatham again has fresh, clean water, but this was a price paid by a community for prosperity brought by the presence of oil in the earth beneath. It was an interesting way of life and the memories and "Paul Bunyan" stories associated with it are not to be forgotten.

F.R. Shaw developed a telephone in the 1870's. This was a "vibrator" phone, made with wooden cylinders and connected with wire. Parsons, Shaw and Daniels formed a corporation and had these patented in 1876. They made quite a number of them and sent some to Russia. An article in the Medina County Gazette in 1879 invited the people to come and see this phone. Quote from the Gazette, "If anybody wishes to see the "Boss Telephone?", they can call at Mason's new ground floor portrait gallery, and the wonderful workings of the instrument will be shown them. Messrs. Parsons, Shaw, and Daniels of Chatham make them." Frank Ripley, of Lodi, has one of these early telephones. Alexander Graham Bell invented the electric "telephone", about this time and had it patented about 1880. This was a much more practical phone and is the type used extensively today. However, the vibrator phone was used between farms and a line was placed between the drug store and the Francis Packard's home. These were used many years before Chatham Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company was organized in June of 1904. Rev. A.B. Hoert was president and William Ripley secretary of the company. The switchboard was installed in the living room of the house of Emma Webber. She was hired as the first operator and continued in service four years. As work increased, Ruby Myers was hired in 1905 and later Marion Hoffman. Lines were built to all parts of the township and nearly every home in the area had a telephone.

In the fall of 1905 the telephone office was moved to the old Drug Store building, where it remained until the service was taken over by the Medina office, when dial phones were installed. Other long time operators were Ola Brant, Clara Allis and Carolyn Light. Now, with only a few large telephone companies in the country, Chatham's is one of the very few Mutual Companies still operating.

Besides all our pioneer citizens whom we regard with deep respect, some of our people have become famous elsewhere. Edith Matilda Thomas, born August 12, 1854, was acclaimed "an American Keat"

for her many poems of quality. Some were published in "The Atlantic Monthly" and the "Old Century Magazine". She was the daughter of a Chatham teacher. Her home was South east of Chatham near the corner of Road 67 (Coon Club Road) and County Road 31.

Joseph H. Brigham lived here for some time. He was a member of the board of trustees of the Ohio State University and on the board of controls of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. For ten years he was Master of the National Grange. President McKinley appointed Colonel Brigham Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, which office he held at the time of his death.

Charles S. Whitman, whose father was pastor of the Congregational Church from 1877 to 1883 became a lawyer. He was District Attorney of New York City and later became Governor of New York State.

Several Doctors have been native sons of Chatham. Dr. Milo Moody born here in 1843 was a practicing physician in Chatham for forty years. Dr. Edward Whitney, 1870, practiced in Walla Walla, Washington. Dr. Robert Shank, grandson of Homer Shank located in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Clyde Alvin Clapp (1880) became a Doctor of Ophthalmology and wrote several articles and a book on the subject. He lived in Baltimore, Maryland.

All of us have contributed to the growth and development of our country. Who would have dreamed 150 years ago, when it took months by oxen and boat, to arrive in Chatham Township from the New England States, that in this short space of time we would fling our voices around the world in a twinkling and send our ships to the other planets. This is evidence of the brilliance of man's mind. But, man is not only mind, He is heart and will. Our hope now lies in the heart of man catching up with the mind of man.

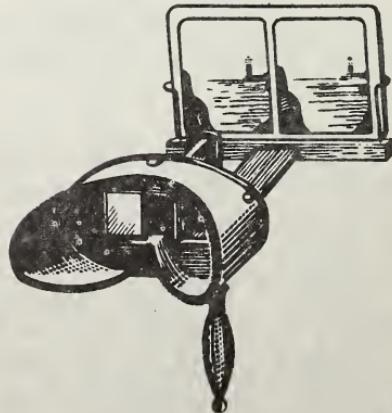
By: Phyllis Grim Siman (Mrs. Kenneth J.)

"CHANGE"

by: Mildred N. Hoyer

How we rebel against it!
Give us what we know;
Familiar surroundings
Familiar faces
Familiar tunes
Accepted routine.
Let us be comfortable.

But life Is Change
Change is the new
Change is the catalyst
Change is growth
Change is more
It is letting go of the past
It is grasping the future
With firm hands of faith.



CHATHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Since July 1, 1967, Chatham township residents have been able to call a local number at any time of the day or night and be in contact with the fire department.

Prior to this time Lodi was the nearest fire dept. available to the community. For many years Stanley Long had the only fire fighting apparatus in the community. This was a foam type generator that was originally designed for hand pulling, but was later mounted on a trailer. This equipment did much to contain fire until Lodi could arrive. It was particularly effective in a fire at the school and on oil fires which are quite common in Chatham. This apparatus is still operable and is part of the fire dept. equipment.

In 1965 some local men thought it was time Chatham had its own fire dept. Among these men were the township trustees; Robert Aungst, Roy Garver and Mack Whitman. Others who did much to get the ball rolling were Francis Grim, Jesse Rose and Lester Akins. A public meeting was called and guests from other departments pointed out the desireability of every town having its own fire department and protection. In the summer of 1966 the trustees decided to put a 2 mill fire levy on the ballot for the November election. Lest Akins was appointed the first fire Chief. Bill Brown appointed a committee to set up rules to govern the department with Al Taylor to be Chairman; Jack Rose, Shelter, and Charles Grim, Equipment. Chief Akins obtained Carl Whitman, Fire Chief of Doylestown, for instruction and in September 1966 training was started on the basic course in firemanship.

In the November election the 2 mill fire levy was defeated by 14 votes. This left the township without adequate funds to purchase equipment and to house a fire department. The firemen then voted unanimously to go ahead with the training and to try and raise enough money themselves to equip a department.

The Chatham Volunteer Fire Association was incorporated for the purpose of raising funds and providing candidates for the fire dept. The first elected officers were: President-Bill Brown; Vice President-Al Schroeder; Secretary-Donna Peacock; Treasurer-Kenneth Siman.

A Womens' Auxiliary was also formed and have contributed much to help get the dept. going. To date June 20, 1968 the Womens' Auxiliary has given the department \$750.00.

The Firemans Association has held many fund raising activities and with the help of many fire departments donating and selling at reasonable costs, three pieces of major fire apparatus were purchased, and equiped.

On March 29, 1967 the basic course in Fire fighting was complete with the following graduates: Lest Akins, Richard Arters, Leonard Barnhart, Francis Barnhart, William Brown, Charles Kline, Donna Peacock, Jack Rose Jr., Jesse E. Rose, Albert Schroeder, Geraldine Ensign, Robert Fite, Charles Grim, Willard Hoover, Charles Jarrett, Ray Scott, Kenneth Siman, Alfred Taylor, Josephine Walters, and Woodie J. Wells.

On July 1, 1967 the Fire dept. went into operation along with Lodi for a period of three months. It was at this time that a new Fire Chief, Jack Rose, Jr. took command of the dept. as Lest Akins resigned his position as temporary chief. Chief Akins was chief at a very trying time in the life of the new dept. and much credit is due him for the fine progress made during his command.

After much discussing, it was agreed on between township officials and fire department members as to a site for the new fire house.



In November 1967 the trucks were moved into the new 35' by 40' four bay fire house located on Kohli drive.

On Jan. 28, 1968 the building was dedicated to the twp. The following statement was read by Ass. Chief Al Taylor.

"Therefore, let it be known that Chatham Volunteer Firemens Association, Inc. , an Ohio non-profit corp., deems it necessary that the corporation's interest in the Fire Station, built on Kohli Drive in Chatham Township. Ohio shall be dedicated.

Whereas, a resolution by the Chatham Vol. Firemen's Ass., Inc.

Let it be known by all residents and the township officials of Chatham, Ohio, that the C.V.F.Ass., Inc.of Chatham, Ohio hereby dedicates the entirety of their equity in the building, known as the Fire Station, to the people of Chatham for the preservation of lives and property.

And hereafter let the C.V.F.D. use the dedication and determination example, set by the persons responsible for the construction of the fire building, as a guide in thier efforts put forth in the preservation of the lives and property of the residents of Chatham Township."

Other groups of organizations contributed to the fire dept. other than the township, fire depts, firemen and Aux. -Chatham Grange, \$100.00---Chatham VFW and Aux.-\$762.00 and concrete floor in fire house---Medina County Coon Hunters-\$100.00---Wilbur Housand---George Kreiger and Dymo Oil-Siren tower and Steel Reenforcing for the floor---Wooster Brass ---Forest Nagel, Armstrong and Charley Rowland ---Stanley Long---Gordon Mathews and many others.

In Feb. Jack Rose Jr. resigned as Fire Chief, due to an increased work load in his job.

job. Charles L. Grim is now the chief with assistants Al Taylor, Al Schroeder and Norman Arters. Officers of the Ass. are Pres.--Bob Fite, Sec.--Leonard Barnhart--Treas.--Kenneth Siman.

Contributed by Charles Grim

Chatham Blazers-C.V.F.D. Aux.

In Sept. 1966 it was decided an Aux to the Fire Dept was needed. Pat Ferrier, Pat Jarrett, Donna Peacock and Jo Walters organized a meeting at the V.F.W. hall. Guest speakers were Earl Beck and wife, fire chief from Seville. They explained the purpose of an aux.

Phyllis Grim was made temp. chair. and along with a committee of Eva Akins, Marie Fite and others wrote a constitution and by-laws to be presented at a meeting and voted on.

The first meeting was held at the home of Carol Rose. The constitution and by-laws were voted on and approved.

The election of officers was held in Nov. 1966. Pres.---Phyllis Grim- Vice. Pres.---Carol Rose---Sec.--- Isabelle Rose-Treas.---V. Aungst.

The purpose of the Aux is to aid and assist the C.V.F.D. in any way and do charitable work pertaining thereto.

Contributed by Phyllis Grim



"SUGAR BUSH"

Ernest Packard as a little boy was very intrigued by the making of maple syrup. He loved to be in the woods and "help" and it was very hard for him to stay in school when his father was working in the woods. In 1910 he married Sadie Wolfe from Penfield and rented the farm on shares from his father. They had an arch and open pan to boil the sap from 225 trees on the farm. In 1912 we bought an evaporator 3 x 8 feet and built a sugar house. This boiled the sap so much faster. In 1918 we bought the farm from Frank Rickard. This enlarged his farming operation as well as his syrup making. There was a sugar house and evaporator in the woods and he soon bought another one. Much later he had 3 evaporators side by side in the Sugar House. Ernest put in a Delco Plant to have brighter lights at the Sugar House. Then he put the telephone to the woods. He also built a cement cistern to store the sap in till it could be boiled.

Mr. Packard run a pipe line from C.R. 177 to the Sugar House to carry the sap from a stroage tank at the road also from Smith road to the woods, he had much trouble with freezing and leaking. Many people came to see and learn about syrup making and we had many picnic meals there.

In 1938 Ernest bought the woods on the Duane Hubbard farm to be cleared off that year. Ernest used some of that lumber to build the Sugar House up near the road and put in a kitchen and dining room and syrup storage room. Here we served pancakes, country sausage and maple syrup and coffee. This soon brought many visitors to the syrup making. At this time Mr. Clem Rice came to ask us if we would try his pancake flour mix made from whole wheat ground with a stone burr mill and water power. He had been experimenting with this mix for some time and thought he had it about right. Mr. Rice also made buckwheat and corn meal flour mix. This was some thing new and soon became a favorite with every body who tried it. It did not take much advertizing as one group told their friends and soon they were coming in groups and parties from Cleveland, Akron,

Wooster, Oberlin, Elyria, Canton, Wadsworth and everywhere. We had many parties where they came for supper then stayed for their party or dance.

In this new and larger Sugar House Ernest bought a new evaporator from Hudon, Ohio, the largest ever made by the Champion Evaporator Company, 6 ft. wide by 20 ft. long, and for a time he had 3 evaporators side by side. Then he bought the steam boiler outfit from Wadsworth Coal Mine, from Mr. Williams, who was later Sheriff of Medina County. He then boiled all the sap with steam and also made sorg-hum syrup in the fall of the year.

This worked wonderful while we made lots of syrup but when he quit renting so many trees and had less help and had to hire a licensed engineer to run the boiler it did not pay anymore. In 1945 he tapped 8,700 trees and made 1900 gallons of syrup. We made a lot of this syrup into sugar cakes and creams; also, used a lot for the tables.

1915 syrup sold for \$.60 per gal.
1962 syrup sold for 6.50 per gal.
1962 meals sold for 1.50 each
1940 meals sold for .35 each

Mother Packard told me they used to stir sugar dry so you could put in flour sacks and trade it pound for pound for white sugar.

After the death of Ernest Packard in 1959, the sugar bush contined for three or four years. Later, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post erected a bush at Chatham and have carried on the pancakes and sausage tradition, for which Chatham has became famous.

Contributed by: Sadie Packard Thatcher



CHATHAM POST 6892
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Early in 1946, at a meeting held in the school house at Chatham, local veterans of World War I and World War II gathered to discuss the formation of a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Chatham. With guidance from Wadsworth and Medina, sufficient interest was aroused to apply for a charter. On a Sunday afternoon, May 5th 1946 Chatham Post 6892, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was formally installed with an impressive ceremony by the ritual team from Lakewood

The charter carries the following names:

Marion Allis	Lowell Dodge
Albert Arters	Joe Farkas
Walter Brinker	Lawrence Giesinger
Edward Clifford	Harold Hall
Elmer Cline Smith	William Hall
Wallace Carr	Homer J. Kohli
Richard Bok	Melvin Allis
Ray A. Clifford	Hayden M. Clifford
Kieth Dibble	Robert Cole
Arden Emery	Elden Giesinger
Robert Hall	John L. Gunder
William Koppler	Gail House
Dan F. Lloyd	William Laport
Robert McVicker	Elmo McVicker
Clare Meek	Richard Mattingly
Arthur Moon	Thomas F. Miller
Howard Sivard	Emmett Sivard
Paul Steel	Floyd Soward
John E. Stratton	Joe E. Stratton
Everett Surrarer	Archie Surrarer
Kenneth Welsh	Lester Root
Gene Whitman	Richard Welsh
Wilbur Wood	Howard Williams
John Yergin	Wilfred Wood
Salie Mungia	Lloyd Pickering
Ivan Fahler	Merle Kirkbride
Stanley Hayton	William Jelenesics
Rufus Roberts	Harold Shelhorn
Herbert Jones	Kenneth Kulp
	Hilliard Grim

The first commander elected by the members was Homer J. Kohli, while at present Robert Arters is commander.

In the organization of the V.F.W. as a national organization, Chatham Post is in the Seventh District of the Department of Ohio. The Seventh District is comprised of Medina, Cuyahoga, Lake and Ashtabula counties. Later, with the formation of more posts in the county, Chatham Post became, and still is, a member of the Medina County Council of Veterans of Foreign Wars. We have had a number of members rise to County Council and District offices and have had one attain rank of National Aide de Camp.

The first meetings of the post were held at the school house and one of the initial needs, which became evident, was the desireability of having a post home.. In this matter the V.F.W. was given a great amount of help from the Chatham Community Club.

The Community Club became well known to all servicemen from the township during World War II, by their gifts, letters and general support. By various donation and fund raising projects the Community Club was able to and did donate for land purchase, nearly \$3,000.00.

This most generous act enabled the post to soon contract the purchase of land which was across the road from the school house

As much as anything in the history of Chatham, the Community Club of World War II years typifies the support of the people of the township have given to servicemen of all wars, from the Civil War on through the present conflict in south east Asia.

The servicemen of Chatham will be ever grateful to all those who gave so unselfishly of themselves in the Community Club activities.

The winter of 1946 saw timber donated from the woods of Charles Grim and Howard Williams for a building which was being planned. Early spring of 1947 found members working weekends and evenings on a post home which was finished by mid-summer. Hours and hours of labor being donated by the members. While not large by present standards perhaps, it was very sturdy as all those who drove nails in the native hardwood can attest.

The original building has since been added to a number of times, and now includes a larger meeting room and dance floor as well as a large kitchen. These additions were made with the aid and encouragement of the Ladies Auxiliary to Chatham Post V.F.W., which was installed May 25, 1947.

At the completion of the first dance floor and a kitchen, it was decided to name this Chatham Memorial Hall in honor of the three local servicemen who were lost in World War II, Lloyd Cline Smith, Leonard Pugh and Dale Hubbard.

The V.F.W. has as its motto, "Honor the dead by serving the living", so along with the building of physical property, the post has taken on in support of this motto many service projects.

First, of course, is the observance of Memorial Day. The V.F.W. ritual prescribes a program of observance but cautions members to fit in with local custom or tradition. Chatham township has always been loyal in remembering its soldiers and the V.F.W. is proud to carry on. As our ritual says, in part—"so long as one comrade remains, so long shall we remember." It has been a tradition of long standing that people of Chatham on "Decoration Day" would decorate the graves of soldiers buried in Chatham and then gather at the monument at the center of town for oration suitable for the day—and a reading of the roll of all the deceased soldiers who came from Chatham. This custom is carried on as well as a parade of the colors to lead the march to the cemetery and a firing squad to render a military salute to those who gave their life for our nation.

The post color guard and firing squad have also helped in the observance of Memorial Day parades at other communities in the county as well as at Huntington in Lorain County where our efforts are always well received. Our colors are also often seen leading the large Independence Day parade which is held at Chippewa Lake.

The community service projects taken on by the post, usually in conjunction with the Auxiliary, are many and varied. A few high lights will serve to illustrate.

The "V.F.W. Community" is nationwide so one item that came to attention early in the post history was the V.F.W. National Home at Eaton Rapids, Michigan. This home is maintained in such a manner as to give a real home atmosphere life for eligible orphaned children of veterans which might not be possible in any other way. Financial support as well as letters, card and visits have been given there.

Another early project which gained recognition is providing of entertainment and refreshments twice a month on Sunday evenings at the local area Veterans Administration hospital. This was started with the Medina County County Council V.F.W. at the parapalegic wards at Crile hospital and is now carried on at Brecksville V.A. hospital.

Since president Eisenhower first proclaimed May 1st as Loyalty Day, Chatham Post has in some manner observed the day. One of the first Loyalty Day parades in Medina County was held in Chatham. Later as the program became more widespread, the post has participated in parades and ceremonies throughout the county and some years at Cleveland, as well.

Locally the post always tries to help any family or person in need with what we hope is a minimum of publicity of those concerned. This carries on in time of sorrow or disaster or accidents.

Also many hours of work have been donated by members for the post to others who are working for the improvement of the community. Carpenter work on the floor of a church remodeling program is one example and the washing and painting at the school house after a fire left smoke damage is another.

Working to get a local volunteer fire department instituted is one of the more recent items of note.

Such is the nature of service work the post and auxiliary have entered into, which if each item were listed would go on and on.

Of course, no organization could continue to exist without revenue and various V.F.W. fund raising projects are now a regular part of the local scene. One of the first and probably the one of longest standing is dances open to the public, usually held twice a month during the winter months. At first these were held at the school house, thanks to the cooperation of the school board, and later moved to the post rooms when Memorial Hall was erected. These dances have been well received by the community and likely will continue for years to come.

For the past six years another fund raising project, which also carried on what is more or less a community tradition is the operation of a sugar bush and serving pancakes and sausage dinners.

Many school children from Chatham as well as other schools, even from Elyria who might not otherwise know what maple syrup is or how it is made, visit the post in sugar season and see for themselves how the maple sap is boiled down.

These examples are given to demonstrate the type of projects which help keep the post operating. There have been others and will be more, none of which ever knew success without the support of the community for which the post is most grateful.

From that first meeting in early 1946 to the present, the week by week history of the post would make a book by itself. It is our hope that this writing will help all who may be interested to know what the organization of the V.F.W. is at the local as well as on the state and national level. To some degree, this history has been repeated in the thousands of posts all over the country.

Contrary to the expressions of some uninformed outsiders, Chatham is a living community and as such, many things change, people move in and people move out. In that respect the local V.F.W. post is no exception. Of the original sixty (60) charter members, six are presently members.

Walter Brinker
Arden Emery
Dan Lloyd

Hayden M. Clifford
Stanley Hayton
Kenneth Welsh

Of these six only two, Stanley Hayton and Kenneth Welsh, still reside in the township.

However, the membership over these years has averaged around fifty (50) it is presently fifty (50), so the spirit of "serving the living" can and will go on.

by Walter Brinker



CHATHAM AUXILIARY #6892
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

On May 25, 1947 the Chatham V.F.W. Ladies to Post 6892 was instituted. The Seventh District President, Sister Jeanette Brede installed seventeen members. Sister Dorothe Shelhorn was the first President. Sister Loretta Arters is President now.

The following members are charter members:

Dorothe Shelhorn	Fern Allis
Vivian Clifford	Cleo Brinker
Colleen Welsh	Ruth Sivard
Ruth Schroeder	Lucille Grim
Eva Yoder	Ethel McVicker
Alvenna Kohli	Zelda House
Martha Ferrell	Mary Geisinger
Frances Brinker	Bertha Woods
Laura Shelhorn	Lucille Trunk
Jane Hubbard	Harriet Shack
	Edna Williams

The following Auxiliary members served as President for the year(s) listed:

1947-48	Dorothe Shelhorn
1948-49	Dorothe Shelhorn and Ruth Sivard
1949-50	Grace McVicker
1950-51	Ruth Schroeder
1951-52	Colleen Welsh
1952-53	Martha Ferrell
1954-55	Martha Ferrell
1955-56	Viola Aungst
1956-57	Viola Aungst
1957-58	Jean Clifford
1958-59	Cleo Brinker and Marie White
1959-60	Marie White
1960-61	Marie White
1961-62	Betty Buttolph
1962-63	Betty Buttolph
1963-64	Helen Arters
1964-65	Arlene Grim
1965-66	Arlene Grim
1966-67	Loretta Arters
1967-68	Loretta Arters

Chatham Auxiliary helps form the Medina County Council of Auxiliaries as there has to be at least five (5) auxiliaries belonging. There were also Medina, Wadsworth, Seville and Valley City. Brunswick just recently formed and joined the county.

Sisters Colleen Welsh, Martha Ferrell and Marie White have served as County Council Presidents. They have also served as officers of District 7 of Ohio of which we also belong.

At the beginning of the auxiliary the members worked hard to buy dishes, silverware, pans, stoves, refrigerator, appliances and many other things. Anything and everything they could find they would do to raise money. The women also bought chairs one year. Another few years we worked selling vanilla, pepper, spices and so forth to raise money. This money went towards to Cancer Fund, Community Service, Hospital work etc. Two years ago we purchased twenty (20) new folding tables. These tables were bought to benefit anyone using our hall. We are also buying a new refrigerator, which we need very badly.

The women also worked with the post on many projects and the members today are working as hard, if not harder, than ever.

The auxiliary participates in Memorial Day parades wherever we are needed. We also parade on Loyalty Day, May 1st. We march on July 4th at Chippewa Lake. We march in other types of parades. The members try to back our men in this category as best we can, whether there are four of us or twenty four.

We help our men with their clambakes, and the Sugar Bush which they started six years ago. We do quite a number of school groups, Y.M.C.A. and many other groups.

We also spend quite a few hours in our kitchen and hall, mainly serving banquets. These range from golf, bowling, firemen and AA, Chatham Alumni, the Mother-Daughter Banquet, plus many more at Christmas time and other times of the year.

We carried Alumni and the Mother-Daughter banquets on when no one would do them anymore. You have to keep certain old traditions of a community and these happen to be two of them.

We spend the money earned on projects, such as buying flags for the churches, schools, boy and girl scouts, cub scouts, 4-H clubs, etc. We also furnished 575 Pledge of Allegiance cards to the schools this year. This is just one way of showing our part of patriotism to our community.

Another project that was done at the beginning of the Auxiliary was letting our service boys know that they hadn't been forgotten. A gift of money was sent to them and candy was sent also. This project got somewhat overlooked in the next few years. In 1966, the president asked that boxes be fixed up at Christmas time and that we also send \$5.00 to each serviceman from our township or a member's son on his birthday.. It's a lot of hard work and hours spent calling for changes of addresses, but when you read some of these letters we get back from the boys, you get tears in your eyes and you sort of choke up and any and all questions, if you ever had any, are answered and you're so glad that time was spent doing different things.

We also give to the funds in the community as the Heart, Cancer, T.B., Radio Free Europe, UNICEF, and others as they may come along. We give to funds within the V.F.W. such as the Health and Happiness Fund for the National V.F.W. Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. We also send cards to the children at the Ohio Cottage. We buy Christman seals for the National Home also.

We stand behind our Medina County Council on visits to Brecksville Veterans Hospital. We take turns with others posts and auxiliaries for refreshments and coupon books. The visits are made every third Sunday of the month. Before Brecksville we went to Crile Veterans Hospital to the parapalegic wards. This is another project of all the posts and auxiliaries in the county.

We are always ready and willing to help any family or anyone who needs help, as in sorrow, disaster, or accidents. This is mostly families that do not belong to the V.F.W.

We have also given the hall to the new fire department trying to get started and the use of our kitchen, etc.

There are many more projects that could be listed but the people of the community know and that is what counts.

by Mrs. Robert Arters



Farm Bureau

Chatham Township has always been agricultural, even after the oil boom when many fields were invaded with pumps, pipes, and oil holes. At first farmers visited with each other across the line fence, and helped each other with barn raising, and planting, and harvesting.

Later they found enjoyment in organizations. First there was the Farmers' Club; meeting evenings, in homes for fellowship and refreshments. E.T. Clapp remembers that they kept their dishes under the stage at school. Later came the annual Farmer's Institutes in the lull of winter or early spring—bright spots of entertainment and instruction for a couple of days and nights.

Farmers had need of working together on a large scale, having an organization through which they could buy seed, fertilizer, and equipment and sell their products to advantage. Many farm leaders saw this need; and so, just 50 years ago, the Farm Bureau organization was born, patterned after cooperatives in Denmark. Fifty years ago in 1918 Medina County qualified for its County Farm Bureau, and Mr. Buxton was chosen as its first county agent. Things went better for a number of years. Then the depression hit.

Farmers who could not always see how the organization was helping them felt they could not continue to pay the membership dues to "those farmers" down at Columbus. Memberships dropped. In 1935 several of our Farm Bureau men went to Nova Scotia where they had heard that impoverished farmers and fishermen had just pulled themselves out of the mire of a much worse Depression than we were in, through cooperatives. Everywhere they went, they asked, "But how do you get the farmers to take hold and use the cooperatives?" and always the answer was, "We always start with study circles", which were small neighborhood groups where farmers pooled their ideas and often found answers to their problems.

Back they came bubbling over with visions of Farm Bureau Councils. A Louis Warbington of Sidney, now over 90 years old, really got inspired. He wrote to us recently, "I was personally present at the organization meetings of the first 150 (councils) in various counties. As near as I can remember the first four Councils in Medina County were organized during the winter of 1937 and 1938. We organized all four at the same meeting in an upstairs room..."

The Chatham Council was organized about that time - just about 30 years ago. From the start these monthly meetings have attracted many farmers and their wives, often being the most satisfying group for them outside of the family circle. Now the feeling was "our" Farm Bureau, instead of "their" Farm Bureau. In December of 1946 the Chatham Council decided to break into three Councils, the groups was that large; so names of families were put into a hat and drawn out in three piles. Later the three groups became two, and in 1956 became one again.

To guide the thinking and discussion at the meetings, the State office prepares Discussion Guides. These may deal with taxation, schools, health, safety, or even high cost of funerals, or role of women on modern farms.

We vote at one meeting a year on Farm Bureau policies for the coming year - and our vote counts at the State level. We may send in recommendations at any time-and are urged to work for improvements on the local level. Just recently we have urged the Township Trustees to work toward systematic house numbering, and some plan for solid waste disposal.

As I have tried to show, the Councils are closely tied in with the main Farm Bureau Organization. Many Chatham people belong to the organization, but not the Council. They may like to belong because of its good Automobile Insurance, or its good Hospitalization Plan, even if they are not farmers.

Two other branches of the main Organization also closely tied in with every other part are the Public Affairs Committee and Women's Committee. Public Affairs men deal with vital social concerns such as New Laws for Auto Drivers, Meet Your Candidates, etc. In Columbus our lobbyists for good farm legislation are the most highly respected of any group, according to Sen. Ocasek.

Women's Committee has a long history of improving rural standards of living. Around 1949 they gave demonstrations on freezing of foods; they promoted dairy products at Milky Way Parties; later they held rural-urban-get-togethers to build better understanding; they have crusaded for litter-free highways "Don't be a litterbug." The last two years they have sponsored and assisted at the very valuable health clinics at the Medina County Fair.

This year Chatham is especially involved. Besides our local Council and good membership in the Organization; the County Public Affairs Chairman is Kenneth Siman, and the County Women's Committee Chairman is Mrs. Kenneth (Phyllis) Siman. They choose vital issues, get good resource people, - and they are providing a vigorous leadership of which we all are proud.

Mrs. Glenn (Pauline) Garver



THE BLACK RIVER CHURCH

The Black River church began when Ephraim and Joseph Swinehart and their families located near Black River, Chatham Township, Medina County, in 1846. Other adherents to the Brethren faith, among them John White in 1849 and Joseph Rittenhouse in 1850, migrated to Black River soon after the arrival of the Swineharts. The territory was at that time included with in the boundaries of the Mohican congregation of Wayne County, of which Jacob Garver was then the presiding elder. But as the Mohican church was distant the need for a separate church house was felt. Before the organization of the Black River church the following ministers served the group: Jacob Garver, John Shoemaker, John Martin, George Flack, and Emanuel Bughley of the Mohican church; Elias Dickey, Isaac Smucker, and Moses Weaver of the Ashland church; John Shoemaker, Sr., of the Chippewa church; and Jacob Kurtz of Stark County.

The new congregation was organized at the home of Joseph Rittenhouse on September 30, 1845. Brother Rittenhouse was elected to the ministry and Ephraim Provant and John White were elected deacons. Elders Elias Dickey of Ashland and Joseph Showalter of Stark County conducted the organization.

Among the charter members of the church were Joseph Rittenhouse, John White, George Heestand, John Robinson, Jacob Provant, Ephraim Provant, Ephraim Swinehart, Gideon Bollinger, Samuel Garver, Frederick Dague, John Werts, the wives of these men, Mary Pittenger, and Nathaniel Rittenhouse. Samuel Garver, John Werts and Frederick Dague, along with their wives, and Nathaniel Rittenhouse were baptized the day of the organization.

During the early years, meetings were held in the homes of the members, the families taking turns in entertaining the meetings. When a home was too small, the barn was used.

Jacob Garver was the pastor of the Black River congregation until 1867, when Joseph Rittenhouse was ordained to the eldership and installed as pastor. Jacob Shock and J.D. Myers were elected to the deacon's office.

A few years after the organization, Samuel Garver, son of Jacob Garver, was elected to the ministry. In 1870, Gideon Bollinger was called. He served the Black River congregation until 1880, when he moved to Missouri. Tobias Hoover and John Pittinger were called to the ministry May 3, 1873, and advanced August 8, 1874. At about this time Samuel Garver was ordained to the eldership and placed in charge of the church, Joseph Rittenhouse having moved to Maryland. Elder Rittenhouse returned in 1876; he died at the age of eighty-two on New Year's Day, 1892. Brother Garver remained as pastor until 1904, when Tobias Hoover was placed in charge. Brother Hoover, ordained to the eldership in 1893, was the presiding elder from February 4, 1904, until his death from cancer on January 26, 1907.

The membership of the church grew rapidly, being the largest just prior to the division of the church in 1882, when there were one hundred thirty-two members. By 1896 the membership had dropped to fewer than fifty.

William Shoemaker and Tobias Prowand were elected to the deaconship April 7, 1883. Charles Woods was called to the ministry November 7, 1887. On November 5, 1892, Isaac Myers and George Hart were elected deacons; Brother Hart was killed accidentally two years later. Henry Kilmer was elected deacon May 1, 1897. Levi Dague and Henry Heestand were elected deacons and A.B. Horst was elected to the ministry on October 14, 1899. Brother Horst and John Yoder, who had moved into the district, were advanced the next year. M. Clyde Horst and S.M. Friend were elected to the ministry September 24, 1904, during the eldership of T.S. Moherman. A.B. Horst was ordained in the fall of 1905, and S.M. Friend in 1908.

The first meetinghouse was built in Homer Township in 1867. In 1882 this structure was transferred to the Progressive Brethren. A second house was built in 1868 in Chatham Township on the farm then owned by Joseph Rittenhouse. In 1900 it was remodeled and enlarged.

The Sunday school, one of the first to be organized in Northeastern Ohio, was started in 1868 with Joseph Rittenhouse as the first superintendent. Other superintendents have been W.F. England, Henry Homan, John Dague, J.B. Wine, Tobias Hoover, John Pittinger, Charles M. Woods, Siman Garver, S.M. Friend, and Henry Kilmer.

In October 1902, a missionary reading circle was organized with Mary R. Hoover as the local secretary. This circle was soon merged with the Christian workers soon merged with the Christian workers society, which is still an active unit in the church.

From 1912 to 1918, A.B. Horst, S.M. Friend, John Yoder, and C.H. Murray served the church in the free ministry. Ira Krieger was elected to the deaconship about 1917. About this time the congregation began to see that some financial support for the ministry was necessary. A committee composed of D.B. Garner, F.L. Findley, and Isaac Meyers was appointed to solicit funds to help compensate the ministers for their services. This system continued until 1923, when a group of members purchased the John Yoder farm and presented it to the church for a parsonage. In this year D.E. Sower took up residence on the farm; he pastored the congregation until September 1929.

Two missionaries went out from the Black River church about this time: Beulah Woods to India in 1922 and Corda Wertz to China in 1932. In 1924 a group of young people organized a B.Y.P.D. In 1925 F.L. Findley became a deacon; Dean Bowman in 1931; Aaron Browand and Glenn Garver in 1940.

Stanley Noffsinger served the church between D.E. Sower's departure and Arthur L. Dodge's arrival in 1931. Brother Dodge operated the farm and served the church until 1941. During his pastorate, a men's work organization was formed in 1938. The farm has not been operated since Brother Dodge left. George Sheets and Donald Keifer fill the pulpit until C.C. Louder became the fulltime pastor in 1943 he was followed by Jesse Whitacre.

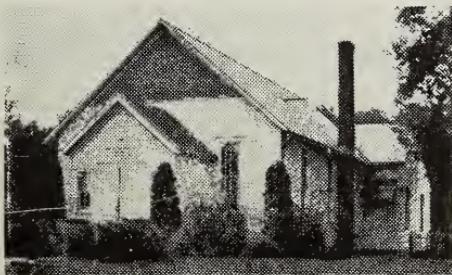
Herman Reinke was elected to the ministry in September 1943 and ordained July 1, 1945. Walter Bowman was ordained April 26, 1944.

Brother Whitacre terminated his pastorate with the church in 1953, at which time Harold I. Deeter was called. Brother Deeter was with us until 1956. On August 2 of that year C. Kenneth Fisher came to be our pastor; he continues in that capacity at the present time.

The Church under his ministry has been able to maintain itself as a strong rural church in the community.

In 1968 Sister Effie Orr gave the Church three acres of land east and south of the church for the building sight of a new parsonage. In the same year the church built a new parsonage and sold the old one. Brother Fisher continues to serve the church well.

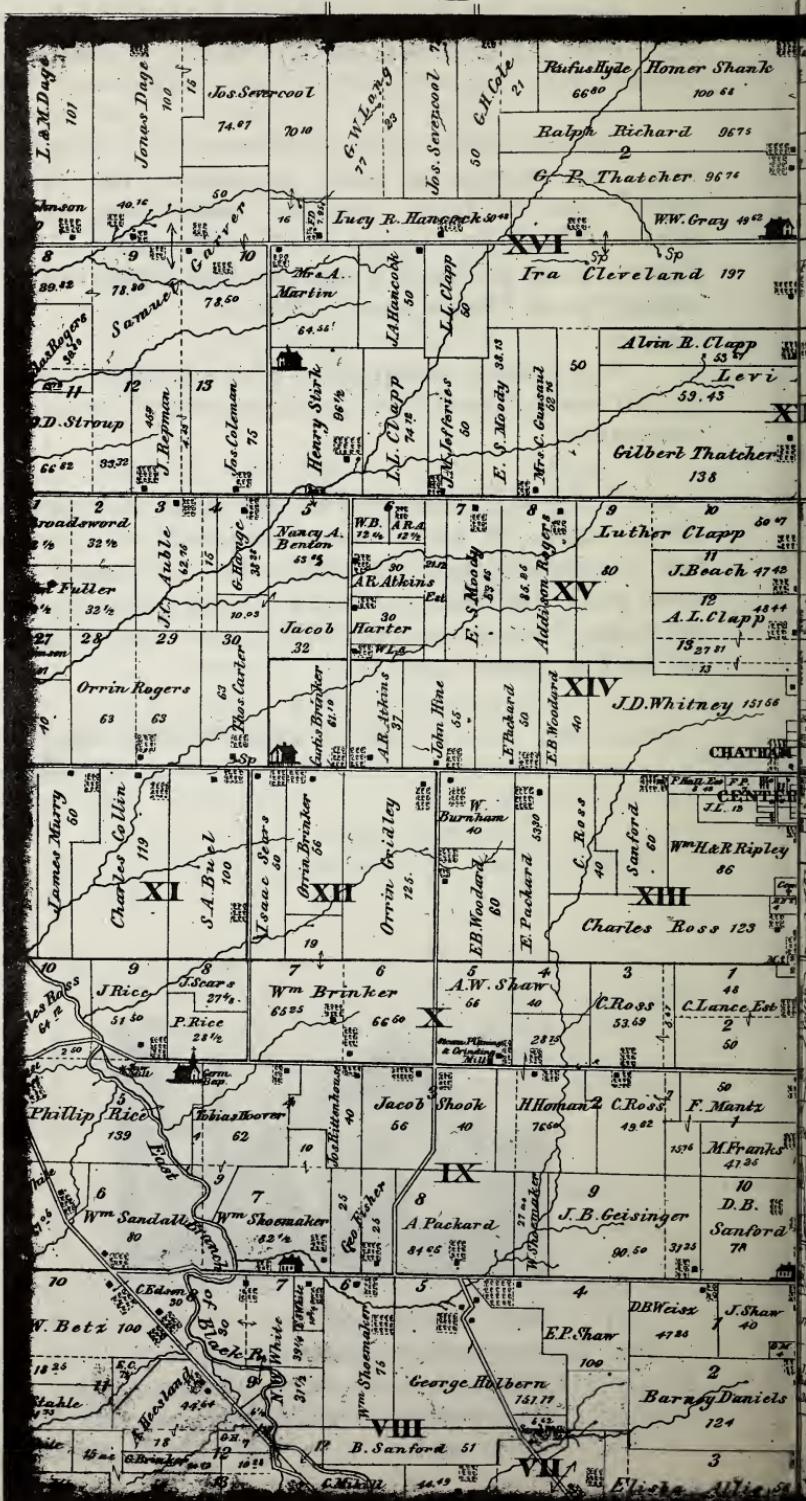
Contributed by Rev. Kenneth
Fisher



Heb. 10:24-25

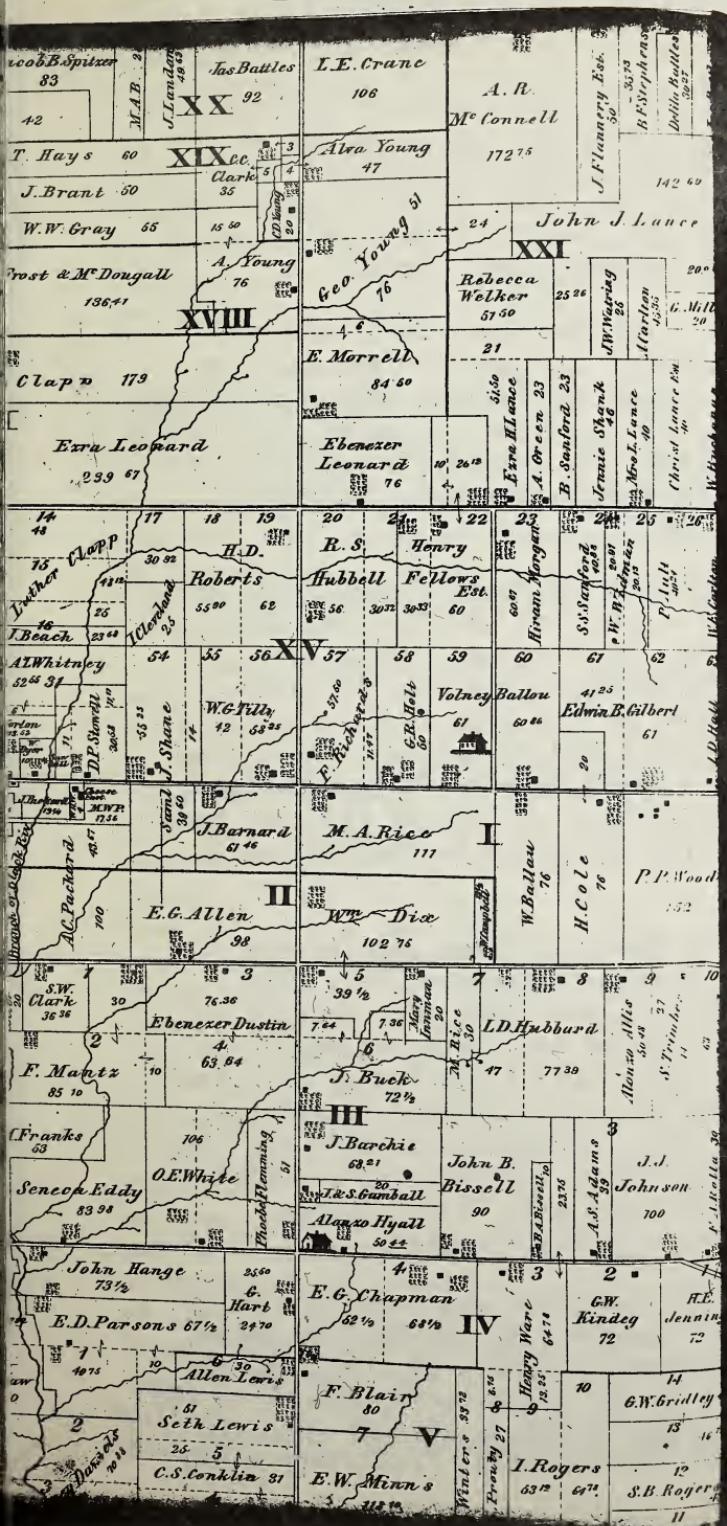
And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembling ourselves together.

MAP OF CHATEAU



T A M

TOWNSHIP



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
AND ITS PEOPLE

The year was 1675, and it was the Narragansett expedition of King Phillip's War, the 840 soldiers who took part therein, were promised "If they played the part of men, took the fort, and drove the enemy out of the country, they should have a gratuity in land besides their wages."

So it was in 1732 the descendants of these soldiers were granted townships in Maine, N. H., and Mass. From these settlements groups of people came out to the Ohio territory together, settled in the same communities and formed the same churches in places like Lafayette, Chatham, Litchfield, Weymouth and others.

From the town of Plainfield in the rocky hills of Western Mass. a group of six families (Gardner, Packard, Richards, Warner, Shaw, Daniels) travelled West some 700 miles to the Ohio territory. They came by wagon to Troy, New York, from there by boat on the Erie Canal to Buffalo, where they took passage on a small lake craft to Cleveland, which was at that time a village of five log houses. The trip from Cleveland to Chatham was by ox cart.

The religious needs of these people were first met by occasional sermons by Rev. John McCrea from Westfield and later Joel Goodeell of Harrisville was engaged to preach one half time at Lodi and the other half at Chatham. With the help of these two men and a stalwart faith behind them these early pioneers organized the first Congregational Church of Chatham upon a doctrine of faith that has stood with little change through 137 years of world progress.

The church for some time was under the watch and care of the Presbytery on the plan of union adopted by the General Assembly of Conn. and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in 1804 which gave the right to Congregational churches to transact their own business, Presbytery being

only advisory. This relation lasted for nearly forty years. In 1873 the church withdrew from the Cleveland Presbytery and later united with the Medina Conference, then Association of Congregational Churches and now the United Church of Christ.

In those early days the Presbytery met regularly with a delegate representing the Chatham Church. A diary tells of the hardships of travel by wagon and on foot to such places of meeting as Brecksville, Hudson, Bath Westfield and of a meeting on April 11, 1838, at Chatham.

Although this village was still a small village with some log houses and termed "the woods country below Lake Erie" it took an active part in the affairs of the state and nation. In 1842 almost 20 years before the Civil War the following "quote" -expression of sentiment and resolution on the subject of slavery was presented for the consideration of the church.

"We the members of this church of Chatham regard Slavery as it exists in our country a great sin against God and our fellow men; against God-as it violates His law, which requires us to love others as ourselves, and do to them as we would that they should do to us. And against our fellowmen as it deprives them of the invaluable privileges, social, civil, and religious. It deprives them of reading the Bible, it breaks up the family relations. It takes from them too great cruelty and oppression. It deprives them of the unalienable right which God has given them to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, therefore, deeply regret that some professed ministers, and many professed Christians of various denominations, hold their fellowmen in bondage; and as the Bible makes it our duty to rebuke our neighbor who does wickedly, and not suffer sin upon him, and to have no fellowship with the fruitful works of darkness, we regard it, as the duty of the Church of Christ, kindly, yet decidedly, to express their disapprobation of American Slavery. And we Resolve that while there may be extraordinary cases, resulting from peculiar circumstances, yet in all ordinary ones, we cannot admit a slave holder to

officiate in our pulpit or to participate in our communion."

A motion was made to adopt the foregoing sentiment and resolution and after considerable discussion the motion was put forth and carried." end quote." There were two underground railroad stations at Chatham with slaves being moved from Chatham to Oberlin.

In 1843 a number of people withdrew from the church and formed a 2nd Congregational Church and erected a house of worship on the N.E. corner of the "common". Fifteen years later-having outgrown the reasons for separation, they were reunited. In 1864 the above mentioned "house" was sold upon the condition that the front of said lot be kept open to the common the same distance as the S.E. and S.W. corners, which shall forever be open for a public square also the house shall never be used by any denomination for religious purpose that this church (the first Cong. Church) does not consider evangelical in doctrine. The Kenneth Welsh family now lives in this house.

The first services of the church were held in homes and in a log school house 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the present church. Later alternating between this school house and one built at the center. In 1844 the present church was erected. Some twenty families agreed to pay to the building committee (composed of Orin Shaw, George Packard, and William Packard) sums varying from \$10.00 to \$100.00 in cash, labor or material. "The meeting house for public worship of God shall be for the public and under the control of the first formed Congregational Church and Society in Chatham and owned by individuals in proportion to the amount paid by them to build it."

The pews were auctioned to the members. They sold from \$20.00 to \$36.00. From the subscriptions and money from the pews some \$900.00 was raised for the building of the church. In 1856 horse sheds were built at the rear of the church and they were also sold to members. After the two churches reunited the pews were declared free. In 1852 a

bell weighing 1242 pounds was purchased for \$400.00 and a belfry and entrance was added to the original structure.

In 1849 a sum of \$550.00 was subscribed toward the founding of Adelbert College, Western Reserve University, by individual members. These were sums of cash from \$25.00 to \$125.00. This gave the first Congregational Church of Chatham a "Perment Scholarship" in said Institution, and shall have the right of having one indigent student of approved character and capacity, free of charge for tuition, so long as the college stands. Many young people have taken advantage of the fore thought of our ancestors. At the present time Tony Gedos, Cloverleaf High School graduate, is using this scholarship.

The church sometimes acted as judge and jury, in some cases excommunicating members from the church because of their misdeeds. The records of the trial of one Edwin B. Richards in the year 1857 reads like a court record, "The Charge"-Thursday, March 5, 1857.

The First Congregational Church of Chatham, Medina Co., appointed Deacon E. Allen, Deacon O. Shaw and Joshua Shaw a committee to prefer a charge against Edwin B. Richards for the intemperate use of ardent spirits, common fame being the accuser. Whereupon the above named committee in behalf of the church, proceeded to prefer the above named charge against Edwin B. Richards under the following specifications:

Spec. 1st At Grafton Station Jan. 1st 1856
drank intoxicating spirits to
excess. --A.W. Dyer- Witness

Spec. 2nd In the town of Litchfield about
the middle of Nov. 1856 was too
intoxicated to keep his team in
the road. --Ephraim Wilson-Witness

Spec. 3rd At Bridgeport Jan. 23, 1857 too
intoxicated to proceed with his singing
school. --Harrison Packard, Henry
Rotertine, J.G. Hower and
E. Raftzgar -Witnesses

The trial proceeded with much detail written
into the church records. Many witnesses appeared
for both sides. It concluded with Dr. Palmer being

called in Mr. Richard's defense. He stated that he had treated him for a disease, the nature of which often left him confused, such as to have the appearance of his being excited by liquor.

The trial ended with his exoneration and a committee of three (Rev. J.B. Sheldon, Eli Smith and T.S. Shaw) was appointed to disabuse Mr. Richards of the false impressions held in the minds of some of the members of the church.

The church has always taken an active interest in helping its fellowmen. Through the years the records show no time when the Benevolence giving has been below \$100.00 a year. The results of its influence in spiritual and financial gifts were evident in the early Foreign Missions Movement in the Southern Pacific Islands, with Sunday School children giving money to purchase a boat, called the Morning Star, for travel between the Islands. In 1875 the children were organized into a Mission Band. For many years the church gave annual support to one child in India, and later the Church School adopted children in China. The present one being Wong Wuk Chi. For many years Mrs. Lillian Williams has kept the church membership actively interested in its mission work throughout the world.

About 1869 a Ladies Aide Society was formed. For many years its main objective was giving many socials, suppers and various entertainments to raise money for the physical upkeep of the church property. In 1958 the Ladies Aide, more recently called Ladies Benevolent Society, became a part of the National Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian church. An important part of its work is now study and aid given each year to a local mission field and also a foreign mission field. The past two years being Japan and Puerto Rico. The next study course will be Africa. Keeping informed on Christian Social Action is also an important part of Women's Fellowship.

A Young People's Christian Endeavor Society was organized August 10, 1896 and met for many years. After a number of years of lapse this

society was reorganized in 1932 and became a very active part of the church. Through the efforts of the group many young people were sent to church camp every summer at Linwood Park on Lake Erie. This society was active for about ten years when it again disbanded. Around 1958 the direction of Mrs. Buelah Auble and Robert Mattingly, Jr. and Sr. youth groups were again formed, under the Pilgrim Fellowship of the Medina Association. Now a combined group of young people from the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ Congregation have been active under the direction of the minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Robinson.

A new church camp for people of all ages has been constructed at Pilgrim Hills, near the Mohicanville State Park. This camp was started in 1957 with this church contributing \$400.00 towards its construction. Many members of our Pilgrim Fellowship groups have attended church camp at Pilgrim Hills.

Through the years music has played a very important part in the growth and development of the church. George Packard directed the church choir for forty years. At one time he visited eight township schools at regular intervals and gave instruction in vocal music. He has been credited with helping originate the plan of traveling music and art teachers still today use it. After his retirement Milo Gunsual, Virginia Lance Conklin and others have been choir directors. For many years Mrs. Carl Packard and Mrs. Ray Packard were pianists assisted by younger members of the church.

Judith (Mrs. A.E.) Noah has directed the choir in recent years with the assistance of a faithful group of ten or twelve members of the church. Since the combining of the United Methodist Church and the U.C.C.C. for Sunday morning worship the choir is now made up of members of both churches and is under the direction of Mrs. Harold Elliott and Mrs. Albert Noah.

On November 9, the proposition to yoke with the Litchfield Congregational Christian Church was brought before the congregation. This proposition was accepted unanimously by the congregation.

From then until 1966 , the two churches shared the same ministers.

An acre of land in the back of the church was purchased from Mrs. Buchanan for \$100.00 in September of 1959.

A Lord's Acre project was carried out in the summer of 1960. A crop of corn was planted on land donated by Mrs. Lillian Williams and an amount of \$173.00 was cleared on the project.

On July 7, 1960, the Congregation Christian Church joined with the Evangelical Reformed Church and became known as the United Church of Christ. At the annual meeting on January 11, 1961, the Chatham Congregational Christian Church passed a resolution to approve the constitution of this newly organized group and became a part of it. The name of the church was then changed to the Chatham United Church of Christ Congregational.

In 1961, the ceiling and sidewalls of the church were insulated at a cost of \$950.00. In 1963, a new oil furnace was installed by Babcock Plumbing and Heating of Hinckley at a cost of \$1050.00.

On April 15, 1964, the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ asked that the members of the churches "uproot intolerance, Bigotry and prejudice within our own lives and to replace them with good will and the determination to strike down immediately, the barriers which divide men on account of race and make it plain to all the people with whom we live and work that the church and the members thereof stand for brotherhood." The Chatham United Church of Christ endorsed this resolution at its annual meeting on January 8, 1964.

In 1964, the sanctuary, chapel and vestibule were remodeled and plastered. The outside basement steps were rebuilt and enclosed. A new water pump was installed and rest rooms were put in. The following year, the church interior was painted and flooring and carpeting was installed. Also during that year the church council voted to subscribe to the United Church Herald Magazine for

each church family. This practice has continued since that time.

A new constitution was written and accepted by the congregation. This included the changes made necessary by the forming of the United Church of Christ.

Chatham Churches, as well as churches all over the country, were faced with a great challenge. Because of the small membership of many churches, the low budgets and shortage of minister, the question of obtaining a full time minister and being able to pay him an adequate salary became a real problem. A pilot project was set up under the approving eye of Dr. Howard J. Wyant of the Methodist N.E.O. Conference, and Rev. Paul Falino of the East Ohio Conference of U.C.C. where by a joint parish was formed. This involved the Litchfield and Chatham U.C.C. and the Chatham Methodist Churches. Rev. Stanley Robinson was called by the unanimous vote of the three churches to be minister of this parish, which arrangement has proved to be working very well. By this arrangement a new era of ecumenical unity exists in this community.

The U.C.C., for some time has sponsored a "Trick or Treat" for U.N.I.C.E.F. project, township wide at Halloween time. We also participate with the Brethren Church and United Methodist Church in the World Day of Prayer Services.

As in the beginning of our church, the ideals of our pioneer ancestors still hold. The most important thing is still, as then, a stalwart faith in God and an understanding heart for our fellow men.

--by Mrs. Kenneth J. Siman



MINISTERS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH-----

Joe1 Goode11 -- 1834-1838
Phillip Everlett -- 1838 - 1839
Lewis F. Laine -- 1839-1840
Caleb Burbank 1840 - 1855
James Sheldon 1855 - 1858
J.E. Vance 1859 - 1868
Stephen D. Peet 1869 - 1872
Ruben Hatch 1872 - 1876
J.S. Whitman 1877 - 1883
James B. Stocking 1883 - 1885
S.S. Calkins 1885 -
Edwin Pose 1886 - 1888
Kendrick H. Crane 1888 - 1892
Davy L. Jones 1892 - 1895
Frank H. Richardson 1895 - 1898
Charles Simpson 1898 - 1905
Chester W. Green 1906 - 1908
George W. Tingle 1908 - 1910
Henry J. Barnes 1911 - 1913
Harold D. Lamb 1914 - 1916
B.U. Child 1916 - 1917
T.S. Winey 1917 - 1918
Arthur A. Wall 1918 - 1920
B.J. Williams 1920 - 1922
D.T. Williams 1922 - 1925
Henry W. Hunt 1925- 1932
Joseph H. Dudley 1932 - 1936
Oscar Nichols 1936 - 1938
Carey Christy 1938 - 1940
George Edwards 1941
J.S. Dickson 1942 - 1943
F.C. Jenkins 1943 - 1944
Torrence Jones 1944 - 1945
R.B. Fisher 1945 - 1950
James Savides 1950 - 1952
Walter Grevatt 1952 1953
Walter Nugent 1953 - 1955
David Crowle 1955 - 1957
Richard Ainsworth 1957 - 1958
John McDuffie 1959 - 1962
Ronald Adams 1962 - 1965
Robert Mills 1965 - 1966
Stanley Robinson 1966 to present

CHATHAM METHODIST CHURCH



METHODIST MINISTERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Rev. Paul Bauders | Rev. Horace McSwain |
| Rev. Gladstone Brown | Rev. Wendell Rimmell |
| Rev. Lorenzo Todd | Rev. Richard Frothingham |
| Rev. Maynard French | Rev. James Brown |
| Rev. Arthur Deutsch | Rev. John Jolley |
| Rev. Stanley Robinson | --now serving |

The history of the Methodist church in Chatham begins with the coming of the first settler in the township.

Moses Parsons and family came from the state of New York in April, 1818. They were ernest and devout Methodists. As soon as several families had been added to the settlement, Mrs. Parsons persuaded Methodist Circuit Riders to visit the little colony and conduct regular church services. The meetings were held in the log cabin homes or sometimes in the open barn.

The first real church organization was formed in 1832, and the Chatham station was added to the Wellington circuit. Meetings were held every four weeks in a log school house; two miles south of the center, situated on what is now the Giesinger farm. In 1838 another Methodist society was formed by the settlers in the northern half of the township. They also worshiped in a school house, standing two miles north of the center.

Among the itinerant preachers who visited these pioneer churches was a Rev. Mr. Harris who later became Bishop Harris.

In 1854, the two societies joined together with a combined membership of seventy-four. The same year they erected a church edifice, at the center on its present site at a cost of \$1,080.00. The original frame building still serves, though, it has been remodeled several times.

The new society was placed on the Westfield Circuit, with Westfield, Harrisville and Lafayette. As the years passed, Seville, Spencer and River Corners were added to the charge.

In 1861 the work was again divided. The churches at Harrisville, Spencer, River Corners and Chatham formed the Chatham Circuit. Years later, sometime before 1880, Chatham was placed of the Lodi charge, and continued thus until 1895 when it again became the Chatham charge. It has been known as such to the present time.

Originally the church had a tall steeple; but, with the trend of the times and the need of repairs, the question arose as to the advisability of removing the spire. One sultry afternoon in the summer of 1906, a Ladies Aide Meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Edwin Gilbert. It was voted to have the spire removed. However, during the meeting a violent storm arose. Lightning struck the church, demolishing the steeple and killing a man who was painting in the interior. Two other men, who were working with him, were unharmed.

The original heating system was three stoves in a dug-out beneath the floor. Slots were made beneath the seats where the heated air could rise and warm the main room. It is told that one Sunday during the services a child dropped a woolen mitten thru a slot in the floor and it landed on a stove. The odor of burning, which filled the building was very unpleasant, to say the least. In time a furnace was installed, which was a great improvement.

A parsonage property was bought in Chatham about 1870, but was disposed of some years later. The present parsonage property, situated across the street from the church, was purchased in 1902. Since then the old house has been removed, and replaced by a new and modern parsonage which was built in 1922. At the same time the church building was remodeled and redecorated. An old balcony or choir loft, which at sometime had been closed, was reopened and made into class rooms. The new entrance to the church was also built.

Feeling the need of a social room for use in the church, the Ladies Aide Society saw the opportunity when the township schools were centralized in 1916. They purchased one of the country school houses, had it removed to its place beside the church, remodeled and equipped it for a dining room and kitchen.

The shrubbery around the church property was planted during the ministry of Rev. Leonard Smith. This was made possible by the gift of funds by former members of the church.

At the time of World War I, the pastor of this church, Rev. Mr. Proceons, was called to the service of the country. He left for camp in the early summer of 1918. The remaining months of the conference year the pulpit was supplied by Rev. Boyd Tucker, who is now a missionary in the Foreign Field.

Ira Gillette, a missionary in South Africa spent his youth in Chatham and united with the Methodist Church in early boyhood.

An outstanding revival in the history of this church occurred during the ministry of Rev. E.L. Smith in the winter of 1886. The meeting continued for seven weeks. The interest was good with large crowds in attendance. There were many conversions, and the spiritual life of the church and community was greatly strengthened.

In 1951 a new Hammond organ was purchased to replace the old piano; at the same time plans were started for modern basement, to furnish classrooms. In 1953, the basement was completed and an oil furnace installed. The Methodist Youth Fellowship was responsible for the new worship center built at Easter time, 1953.

October 17, 1954, the centennial was observed with a capacity crowd.

In 1960 the sanctuary was re-plastered and decorated. The new floor was laid by donated labor of the V.F.W. Post. New pews replaced the old ones. The annex was built in 1956 with a modern kitchen, rest rooms and furnace room; also space for classrooms above. These were furnished in 1964. The approximate cost of all these improvements was \$26,750.00.

In the summer of 1967 new sidewalks were laid near the parking area with walks leading to outside entrances. The church was given two coats of paint and the church steps were repaired; also a new enclosed front porch built on the parsonage.

P A W N E E

The two locations, known at different time by this name, are about three miles apart. The general area includes parts of four townships-Spencer, Chatham, Homer and Harrisville. The Germanic ancestry of the early settlers is attested by the three churches they founded, which were originally known as German Baptist, German Reformed and German Lutheran. I shall write first of the earlier Pawnee, and in this story, in describing locations I shall use the road numbers now in use.

The older Pawnee was located at a crossroad, at which is now the east end of Co. Road 195. This is where Mr. Esselburn built his store--said to have been at that time the largest in the county. It was said he would buy anything anyone had for sale and supply almost anything that might be wanted. He also carried on what amounted to be a banking business. This also was the location of the Pawnee postoffice. Store and post office were both out of business before my first acquaintance with the place. The store building stood in place until about 1914, when it was removed. The relocation of the B & O Railroad, work on which started in 1905 with a deep cut at this point, made necessary the razing or removal of every building on the south side of the old road and the relocation of part of the road. There are now about a half dozen houses in this place, now known as Esselburn's Corners. There never was a railroad station at this place.

The W & L E railroad was built through this section about 1881. It crosses Co. Road 28 directly north and nearly three miles distant from the hamlet about which I have been writing. It appeared that here was an opportunity to obtain better mail service, and a movement was started to get a postoffice located here. Jonas Markley seems to have been the leader. The movement was successful. Judge Albert Munson, of Medina, had been helpful in handling the necessary proceedings, so the new postoffice was named Munson. Many people called the whole neighborhood by that name for years. Three postmasters served here; George Barnard, Daniel Leong and Charles Stroup, in that order.

Some time later, two brothers, George and Jacob Barnard, built a small building near the crossing and set up a general merchandise business. They arranged with the railroad officials to have their shipments delivered at this point, which was named Pawnee Station. Later the work "Station" was dropped from the name.

Pawnee Station was designated as a signal stop for passenger trains and a platform erected for passengers and freight shipments. It was never made a regular stop, but for a number of years, when the place was at its greatest, it was rare for either a local freight or passenger train to go through without stopping. There was never a depot or agent. The business was handled by the agent in Spencer.

By 1893, the store business had outgrown the building. It was then owned by Daniel Long and Wm. Brinker. They erected a new and much larger building.

About 1895 it was felt that a blacksmith shop was needed. A building was erected and a man named Loomis came to operate the shop. After about three years it was given up and closed.

About the same year, a need was felt for a service track where cars could be set in for loading or unloading. Railroad officials agreed to build the track if the people would contribute the price of the steel. Their money was to be returned if and when the track had handled enough business to equal that amount. Several years later their money was returned.

About 1897, E.E. Brinker set up a saw mill and feed mill north of the station in the valley, opposite the east end of Co. Road 84. This mill was the scene of the worst accident ever to occur in this vicinity. One June morning in 1906 the boiler exploded, killing Mr. Brinker, and badly injured his two sons, Fred and Ed, who were working with him. The boys however, soon recovered.

About 1900, Charles Long, who was the owner of the general store, again found it too small. He built an addition at the rear, which nearly doubled the space. Establishing of Rural Delivery so reduced

the business of the post office that it was closed in 1905.

About 1899, Sylvester Billman had erected a building near the service track, in which he conducted a business similar to what we now call an elevator business. There was no machinery. Cars of grain were loaded by means of a cart which held perhaps ten bushels; it was shoveled full, then run out over a bridge to the car.

In 1906, the W & L E completed building somewhat more than a mile of side track, thus using the space formerly occupied by the service track, and built a new service track over on the north side. This made it necessary to move the "elevator" building over across the tracks to a new location. Will Auble, of Spencer, who had purchased the building, had it moved and remodeled, but it fell into disuse for several years.

The W & L E, after building the new siding, set up a small telegraph office. It was not a commercial office but handled only railroad business. It was closed in 1908. During the years there were many changes in ownership of the store, which are not mentioned here.

In 1909, F.A. and E.L. Falconer, having purchased both store and elevator, began operating both under the name Falconer Bros. They installed the necessary equipment in the elevator and made it a thriving business. About two years later, F.A. Purchased his brother's interest and operated both businesses until 1919, when he sold the elevator to Harvey Fike.

The Falconers also dealt in hay, which was then a major crop and source of farm income. At one time twenty-eight carloads were shipped from Pawnee in one month.

In 1911, J.W. Sanders purchased what had been a one-room country school house and moved it to a location near the station and equipped it as a hardware store. He bought out the hardware department from Mr. Flaconer and started operation. The business was moderately successful for several years.



Hardware Store Pawnee, J.W. Sanders, Prop.



General Store Pawnee, Charles Long, Prop.

After J.W. Sanders' death, two sons, Elmer and Glenn, undertook to carry on under the name Sanders Bros. Due to a combination of circumstances they found it impossible and closed the business in 1925.

In 1909, another blacksmith shop was set up, which was operated for about ten years and then closed. In the winter of 1906-07, H.B. Sanford set up a temporary saw mill on a farm about a quarter mile south of the station. He sawed for some speculators who had bought a large amount of timber in the vicinity. The lumber was shipped from the station. Some of it was said to be destined or shipped to Germany, for cannon poles. I have wondered if we faced those cannon in 1918.

About 1912, an effort was made to get a depot and an agent at the station. About the same time, since the one-room schools were being abandoned in favor of something larger, and it was hoped, better, an effort was made to have a special district created and a school located at Pawnee. Both efforts failed, which, as we see it now, was just as well.

When Harvey Fike purchased the elevator from F.A. Falconer, he did not want the grinding business, so it was sold to P.E. Heilman. He moved the equipment to a building erected for the purpose next to his saw mill, which he had set up several years earlier. The location was the same spot Mr. Brinker's mill had occupied. Harvey Fike operated the elevator for about a year. Then, having other plans, he wished to sell the business. A number of persons in the community organized The Pawnee Equity Co. and bought it. This venture was not successful and was abandoned in 1924.

In 1920, Mr. Falconer sold the general store to P.E. Heilman, who operated it until 1937, when he sold it to a Mr. Akins, who operated the business for a short time, then sold it to Jack Welsh. Welsh died in 1940. At his death the store was closed and never reopened.

In 1918, the W & L E erected a small shelter for passengers and freight shipments. The store and

elevator buildings have been razed, the service track and shelter removed, and the second Pawnee, like the first one, is a memory.

The first telephones come into the neighborhood about 1899. The line came from the Lodi exchange of the Star system. In 1904, the new Chatham Telephone Co. built a line to Pawnee and the other line was abandoned.

These items are not directly connected with the story of Pawnee, but since they occurred in the same general area, they may be of some interest.

1. Years ago, some one whose name is forgotten, had a small water-powered mill on the little stream which crosses Co. Road 28, at the intersection of Co. Rd. 84. Most of the old earthen dam can still be seen.
2. Co. Road 76 once extended eastward across Black River as far as Co. Road 69. Difficulty in maintaining a bridge caused the eastern section to be abandoned.
3. Co. Road 99 was originally laid out only as far west as Road 29. Later it was extended westward to Road 28 to give more direct access.
4. About sixty years ago, Wm Briggs and Sylvester Billman conducted an undertaking business for several years under the name Briggs & Billman.
5. For several years, about 1900, Tillman Koons operated a boot and shoe repair shop at his home, west of the station.
6. In 1916, when Spencer Twp. schools were being centralized, the part of Chatham Twp. lying west of Black River was attached to the Spencer district. Several years later it was transferred back to Chatham.
7. Simon Hartman once had a cider mill at his home, distance north, off Road 102.
8. Later, E.J. Sanford built a much larger mill further east on the same road. It was really three mills - a cider mill, a saw mill and a feed mill. It was powered by steam and equipped to boil the cider or make apple jelly if desired. It was destroyed by fire in 1912 and only the cider mill was rebuilt. Later the equipment from this mill was purchased by Henry Steele and set up at his place on Road 29. He made cider there for a number of years, but has now ceased

to operate.

9. About 1914, The Prospect Hall Progressive Farmers Club was organized. The name was taken from the district school on Road 102, where the meetings were held. When the school was abandoned, community events of all kinds were held there for many years. Eventually interest died out and the school building was sold. It is now a residence.

10. The little cemetery at the intersection of Roads 28 and 84 was the private cemetery of a family named Browand, who lived at the place many years ago. There has been no burial there for about 75 years.

11. It was thought at one time that there might be coal in this vicinity. One of the early settlers, named Rittenhouse, had a blacksmith shop where he did such work as the pioneers required. Friendly Indians supplied his coal, but no white man ever learned where they got it. It may have been a long way from there.

12. Many years ago, at a date which must have been in the 1870's or 1880's, some one promoted the idea of a factory for the making of Swiss cheese. Funds were subscribed and a building erected at a site on Road 29, just north of the intersection with Roads 28 and 68 at what is known as Five Points. Some cheese was made, but for some reason not now clear, the project was abandoned.



THE HISTORY OF OIL IN CHATHAM-----

In June of 1918, E.R. Edson leased several farms with the purpose of drilling for oil. He started on W.H. Ripley's farm, drilling the first oil well in Chatham. He drilled the Berea sand, which had a good showing of oil. More wells were drilled, which produced barrels of oil. This started the oil boom in Chatham. Soon other companies came into Chatham and leased more farms and drilled more wells. In 1918, 1919 and 1920 there were about 35 drilling rigs drilling for oil. There were more than several hundred wells drilled in the early oil boom, some were good and some were dry.

Nearly every house was occupied by two or three families. Many housewives kept roomers and boarders. Beds occasionally were occupied day and night by alternating shifts.

As more wells were drilled, more money came into the township. Farmers quit farming, they were receiving -one-eighth royalty from their oil. They made more from their oil than from farming. Some farmers received \$1,000 per month, others did not receive as much. Some people receiving good royalties remodeled their homes, and others bought stocks and bonds.

To sell the oil, it had to be pumped with steam boilers and pumped to Lodi, into railroad tank cars and shipped to Cleveland. Later Buckeye Pipe Lines put in storage tanks and pumping stations south of Chatham. Then the oil companies pumped their oil into Buckeye Storage tanks and then Buckeye station pumped the oil to Berea from there to Cleveland. Since 1967 the oil has been trucked out to Canton and Wakeman, because of the closing of Buckeye station.

First wells were drilled with steam operated rigs. The boilers were fired with coal, later gasoline engines were used to run the drilling rigs. Wells were shot, tubed, and pumped with a central power run with a gas engine.

Some of the first wells were shot with rock

bust powder. Now, oil wells are shot with nitro-glycerin. The depth of the wells are from 275 feet to 600 feet. Nitro-glycerin is kept in a storage building called the magazine. The shooters would pick it up and take to the well to be shot. In early days it was transported with horses and wagon. Later they made trucks which had rubber padded boxes to keep glycerin cans apart. If the cans would leak it would be very dangerous.

In 1939 E.R. Edson sold all his leases to Dymo Oil Corporation from Olean, New York. Dymo Oil was the first to use a new method to recover more oil by using water pressuring, which is a process of pushing oil ahead of water. This started another oil boom in Chatham. Royalty owners royalties increased again and the oil companies payed a great deal of taxes into the township and county.

Pressure water plants were built and water piped to intake wells, from one lease to another by pipe lines. New wells were drilled in rows; a row of water and a row of oil wells with spacing of 300 to 500 feet apart in a five spot pattern. The water wells were drilled the same depth as the oil wells. The water used in this method, is recycled to be used over and over, to keep the water from polluting the area. Separation tanks are used to separate the water from the oil.

A few wells have quit producing oil and some farms or leases where oil has been taken and the wells have been abandoned, the farmers are now raising crops. Some of the wells that were drilled in 1918, 1919 and 1920 are still producing oil, including the first oil well drilled in Chatham.

By: Mr. George Kreiger



CAMP COURAGE

Camp Courage for Mentally Retarded Children is located on Medina County Rd. 28 between State Rt. 162 and Medina County Rd. 4, in Chatham Township. At the present time the facilities are used at no charge for all mentally retarded children from the Greater Cleveland area and the surrounding counties in the northern part of Ohio. It is non-denominational and non-sectarian.

The Camp is comprised of forty acres of land which includes 10 acres of woods, just right for hiking, not too dense but dense enough to be beautiful. Three creeks wind through the woods and come together to make an island which is bridged on one side. The creeks are shallow and children may wade and catch tadpoles. Another part of the camp comprises a spring fed lake which is stocked with several kinds of fish. The children have shown much interest in fishing, and as this is not a competitive sport, it is exceedingly beneficial for them.

The animals on the farm are all so tame they can be fed by the children. Children ride on three full grown ponies and can feed two baby ponies. Larger children ride the full grown horse which is very gentle, and the ambulatory children can be put in the sulky that the very funny and jealous donkey, "Dusty" pulls around the grounds. They can feed "Arnold" the pig and the bunnies, "Thumper" and "Dum Dum", and the big white ducks, "Tommy", "Herman" and "Gloria"; also, the mallards with their little ducks which are hungry all the time.

The children use the camp during the summer in conjunction with the program being carried out in the greater Cleveland area. The camp has seven counsellors on hand at all times. These are teenagers who have volunteered their time as they are interested in becoming teachers or social workers upon completion of their schooling and want the opportunity of working with mentally retarded children. The fall features hay rides, the winter-ice skating, sledding on the just right slopes, and an old-fashioned sleigh that "Dusty" pulls. In the spring a sugar bush is in use for the children to see the tapping of

the maple trees, the cooking of the sap and the final product. We have a shelter house that is heated by an old fashioned stove and the children have a place for play during inclement weather.

The officers of the camp include: President: Sam Rapisarda; Bob Feller, the very famous baseball player, as Vice President; and George Kampman is the director of the camp. Also on the staff is Dr. Leonard Nagle of Spencer and Wellington, while a camp nurse is on the grounds at all times.

During the past year, over 1500 children have attended the camp at no charge. Weekends the whole families are encouraged to come out and use all the facilities, and many do come every weekend. Our future plans include facilities for the whole family to camp.

The Camp is operated strictly on donations and contributions and this past year has featured benefits which included the "Count Basie Show", held at Music Hall in Cleveland, with the proceeds going to the camp for continued operation. At the present the camp is trying to raise funds for the building of a recreational hall which will house a therapy pool for the children and dormitories so the camp can be used by many children as a place to stay during a home crises or the necessity of the parents being away.

The camp came into being through efforts of the 145th Infantry Regiment Organization, a veterans group from World War II, which adopted in their original charter, the purpose of helping needy children.

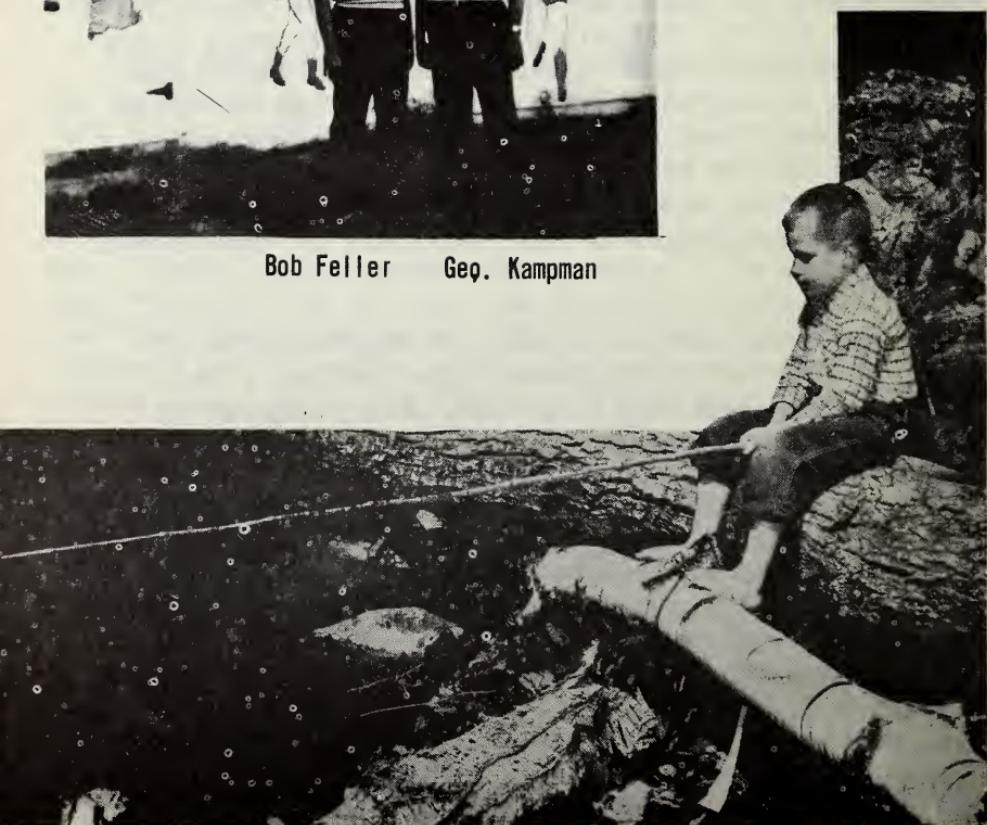
One of their first endeavors was to help St. Emerics School for Retarded Children and besides many outings, which included the Cuyahoga County Boat Ride, Pony Rides, they had a "Las Vegas Night" which enabled them to provide new desks and equipment and a station wagon for the school. In helping St. Emerics the interest in the mentally retarded grew and they branched out into helping more of the mentally retarded children and the need for a camp became more evident.

'After much searching this property was found. The funds for the property was raised through the making of a record by the army band of the 145th. Over 10,000 of these records were sold by a house to house calling. Any donation was acceptable and the property was purchased

By: Mrs. George Kampman



Bob Feller Geo. Kampman



CHATHAM GRANGE

In the autumn of 1928, Mr. and Mrs. John Kelser Medina County deputie's, came to Chatham for the purpose of creating interest in starting a Grange. There being no other Farmer's organization in the township at that time it was not difficult to secure forty-nine Charter members and the formal organizaion was effect May 5th, 1929. For the first several meetings Brother and Sister Kelser traveled the miles from their home in Montville township to our meeting place in Chatham School Cuditorium and coached us in the proper way to conduct a Grange business meeting and explained the meaning of the precepts of the order.

We are also indebted to various members of Montville Grange who came with the Kelsers and presented Musical numbers, talks and skits which make up a typical grange program and were a great encouragment to us. When the Kelsers finally left us to carry the responsibility alone we greatly missed their presence, but the new members responded so well to their teaching that we were able to present the 1st degree at the appointed time. We also had our new regalia for this first degree meeting. Our community projects have been putting on plays for the benefit of the Farmer's Institute, helping with the Memorial day exercises, we have presented music to the local church choirs, books to the school library, cooking utensils for the school kitchen and chairs for the auditorium; also, have helped in furnishing some of the stage equipment. We are grateful to the Chatham school board for permitting us to use the auditorium for our meeting. Perhaps our most ambitious project was filling in and grading the square in the center of the village and planting it with shrubbery. We have answered all appeals for aid from other granges and have assisted our own members when in need of aid, and have remembered the sick with flowers and other attentions.

Our peak in membership was one-hundred and thirty three in 1941.

We have participated in the County, State and National contests and have arranged a grange exhibit

at the County fair each year since that project was started. A feature of our annual Booster night program is an extensive flower show.

A Juvenile Grange was organized during the early years and continued successfully for some time. When the State Grange met in Cleveland in 1940, Chatham Juvenile presented the table aux for the Juvenile degree work, Just now we regret that this Juvenile is dormant.

The present subordinate grange is the successor to an earlier grange organized in 1896. This former grange also started with forty-nine charter members and continued until about 1910.

No presidents have been nurtured in our grange but we share with Harrisville grange the honor of having had in our midst Col. Joseph Brigham, who was born in Harrisville township and at six years of age moved with his parents to a farm in Chatham, where his boyhood was spent. Col. Joseph Brigham later served nine years as Master of the National Grange, and was appointed assistant secretary of Agriculture during the administration of President William McKinley.

Our Members cherish a love for the beautiful ritualism of the grange and we are confident it will move forward with the grange of the future.

By: E.T. Clapp



Rice's Dam

Rice's Dam has been widely known for over 135 years and operated by Rice's until Clem Rice retired at the age of 95, only a few years ago. It is now owned by Ebin Bistline of Grafton, Ohio.

Frederick Rice, also a miller, settled on what is now the east part of the Wooster Experiment Farm, in 1822, coming from eastern Pennsylvania. In 1830 his grandson Phillip came north along Black River looking for a Mill site. Black River had gained fame as the course of Col. James Smith, the first white man to enter this part of Ohio, as he moved toward Lake Erie in 1756 with his family of adopted Indians.

The forest was so dense that it took Phillip and his Miller father, Barnhart, who had come along to help select the sight for a dam, four days to cut a trail from Lodi to this point four miles north which was eventually selected, located the south west part of Chatham Twp. They decided on this site because there was an old river bed, abandoned in the years of the river's "meanderings," that could be made into a mill race with very little effort. A "water right" was purchased to permit backing the water up stream. Trees were felled, the logs, smaller trees, and lots of brush were dragged into the river to dam up the water sufficiently to run a saw mill, to cut out better timbers for the dam, but ice in the winter raised so much havoc with the log dam that four years later, in 1834, today's stone and timber dam was built. Huge rocks were hauled in on mud sleds from the surrounding hills and a few more were added each year for many years. Later concrete was poured over the inside of the dam. Willow trees were planted to help hold the banks. The old river bed was cleaned out to carry the water around to the mill, making the "mill race."

The first mill used an over shot wheel. Because of fires, there has been four mills on this site. Mills, those days frequently burned

after several years of accumulating explosive flour dust. The later mills used turbines instead of over-shot. The first turbine Phillip Rice designed himself. This turbine has been preserved and mounted in concrete for display, it may be at the mill yet. There was a large four story flouring mill built in 1877 by John Rice, son of Phillip and father of Clement. It was the finest in Northern Ohio at that time. The day of the "raising" was a great neighbor event, as related by Mrs. Sarah Gilbert of Lodi, a sister of Clement, but older than he, (being only 10 years old at that time.) She said one hundred men came and about 25 neighbor ladies came in to help get the dinner. She also recalled that she sewed for days and days making up the new silk bolts for the new mill. For many years it was one of the biggest industries in Medina County. Farmers teams stood in line many hours awaiting their turn. It even ran night shifts in rush season. It too was destroyed by fire in 1896. It was replaced with a smaller mill and saw mill. In later years Clem Rice developed a pancake mix along with his packaged graham, corn meal and buckwheat flour. This mill became known far and wide, for there was a great demand for his stone burr ground products with all the vitamin germ left in the flours. Even some doctors recommended their use. One Christmas he shipped his products to seventeen states.

Clem Rice, as he was known to most people, was also quite diversified. In the early 1900's he traveled the fairs, showing thoroughbred hogs and sheep, including several state fairs. For several years he displayed the agricultural exhibit for Medina County at Columbus State Fair. He served as Medina County Recorder for four years, 1916-1920; and served in township offices. He recalled carrying the first rural mail out of Spencer for a day or two on horse back. He had accompanied the Post Office Inspector laying out the route, and the regular carrier couldn't go the first day or so. He also was active in Chatham's first telephone service being built.

During the late twenties and thru the thirties he became known far and wide thru home made ice cream and his park facilities. The area between the Mill Race and the main river was well shaded with huge walnut trees and here he built picnic tables, fireplaces, ball diamond, etc. These grounds were booked for picnics and reunions from miles and miles around, even into adjoining counties. He and his wife Emma (White) made hundreds of gallons of home made ice cream in season, at first he used water power, later electric, which he extended into the park. There were also several cottages on the Mill Race, usually the occupants were from Cleveland, Akron, Elyria and Wooster.

But when World War II came along, with it went the large walnut trees, stumps and all, for gun stocks and other government uses. These trees had been planted by Phillip a hundred years before.



CLEM RICE RETIRES

Clem Rice spent his whole life here until his retirement at the age of 95, except four years in Medina as County Recorder and three years he spent in Lodi in the Lumber business with his brother, Joseph, until they burned out there. He died at the Crestview Rest Home at Medina at the age of 98. He often mourned that he had no son's to carry on the Rice and Mill tradition. He had two daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Fuller of Lodi and Mrs. Hannah Betz of Medina. Mrs. Rice died in 1953.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

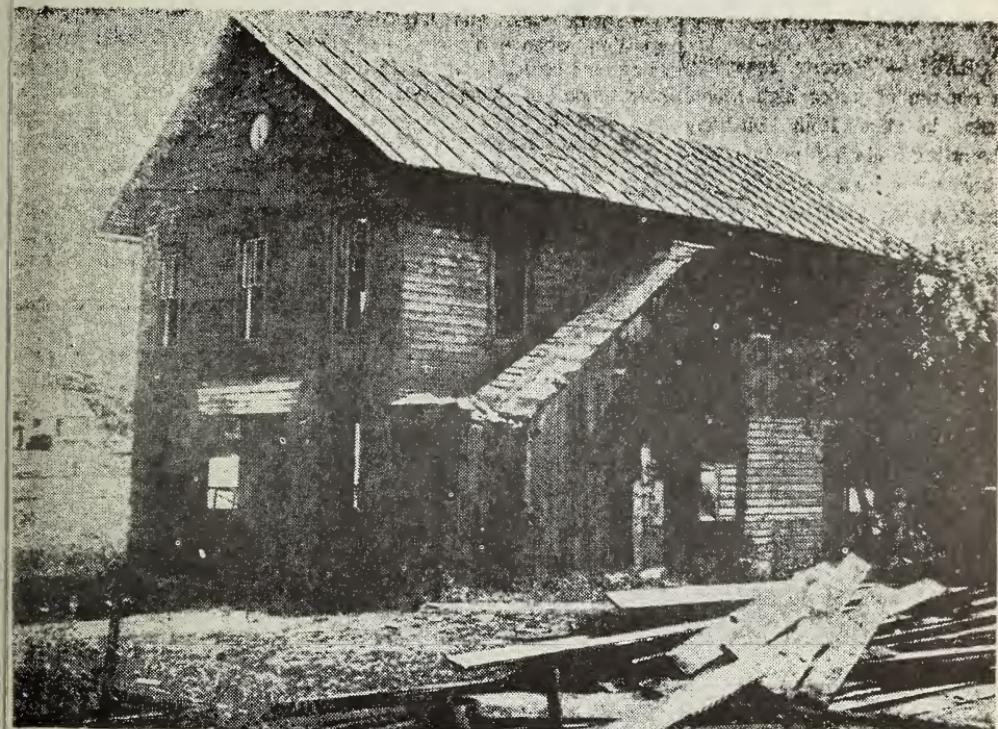
The old Blacksmith shop was torn down in 1959- Obliterating landmark that was familiar to all old residents. It was built around 1885 by L.C. Pohlman, who used it for a blacksmith shop; and, later a buggy repair shop and dealership. My father, Harry Grim, served his apprenticeship in the old shop and when it was caught by the changing times and became a garage and gas station, run by Fenton Shaw, he proceeded to build his own shop on his small farm on Short Street. There he shod horses, sharpened plow points and kept the old horse drawn 'kid wagons' in running condition. This was a summer job getting them ready for school to start.

Horses were fast being replaced by tractors, trucks and cars; but he managed to make a living for his family by repair work and such, until swamped by the depression of the '30's.

He is retired now, living in Florida. Still hale and hearty at the age of seventy-seven; not a grey hair on his head. His forge and anvil are in his back yard and still tinkering, doing a little repair job for his neighbors and friends.

He wishes he was younger so he could ply his trade on the neighboring horse farms. His "Know-how" would be much in demand on these show places being transplanted from the Bluegrass area of Kentucky.

by: Mrs. Al P. (Fern Grim) Allemang



THE RING of the blacksmith's hammer will echo no more in Chatham. The old blacksmith shop, at least 74 years old, is being torn down and the land will become a front yard for Frank Storm. His uncompleted house may be seen at the right behind the old structure. (C-T Photo)

Chatham 4-H History

The first 4-H activity in Medina C. was done through the schools but with little success.

There were 5 small clubs in the county in 1919 and it remained that way until 1922. The first local leaders were secured in 1921. Boys and girls belonged to the same club and met monthly. There was a milk booth at the Medina County Fair in 1921, at which 4-H members sold Holstein and Jersey milk.

The first county agent was R.H. Halderson. The first in Chatham was begun in 1922 when H.C. Brunskill was hired as county club leader and he began work on June 1, 1922. The name of the Chatham Club was "Chatham Climbers" and the advisors were Rolden Clapp and Hannah Clapp.

The first year there were 4 clothing projects, 1 potatoe project, 3 pig projects, and 1 poultry project. In 1923 Chatham had it's first calf club member and also 3 poultry and 3 pig projects.

The first food club was started in 1923 and was known as the Successful Six with Mrs. Ada Packard as it's leader. Six girls completed there food projects. The Clothing Club was known as the Chatham Cheerful Sewers and had 15 girls starting projects and only nine completing.

In 1922 Rolden and Hannah Clapp were tent leaders at 4-H Camp at Camp Cragg.

Eva Clifford Yoder belonged to the first clothing club in 1923 and was a county winner and got to go to Columbus as her reward. Three generations of her family have and are members of 4-H in Chatham. Her two daughters, Dorothy Yoder Shelhorn and Delma Yoder Lance; and her daughter, Bonnie Lance, who is club president this sesqui-centennial year.

One of the first from Ohio to take part in the IFYE program (International Farm Youth Exchange) was a former Chatham 4-H member, who went to Brazil. This program is totally sponsored by 4-H with no help from Federal Funds.

Our club has had a German Exchange Student in 1953-54, sponsored by the National Grange. She was Brigitte Pleines. Serving as secretary of the girls club that year, she also served as an advisor in 1958 when she came back to visit in the home of her host family, the Avery R. Clapp's and worked in Medina.

The following 4-H members were state winners in their respective demonstration contests and won trips to National Club Congress in Chicago: Mary Whitman, Shirley Grim, Marjorie Anklam, and Virginia Sooy. Margaret Clapp, an advisor, was awarded a trip to National Club Congress when she was a member of the State 4-H committee in 1954.

I would like to dedicate this 4-H history to the following advisors, men, women, and young people, who have kept the club work going in Chatham: Dorothy J. Arters, Helen Arters Street, Jack Arters, Alvin R. Clapp, Avery R. Clapp, Edward L. Clapp, Hannah Clapp Albers, Margaret D. Clapp, Rolden Clapp, Bernice Clinesmith, Leona

Clinesmith, Gertrude Clinesmith, Florence Coe, O. B. Davis, Carol Dobson Harris, Rev. Joseph Dudley, Kay Dunkle, Virginia Erb Walker, Roland Fish, Douglas Gottron, Joanna Grim Briggs, Josephine Grim Slusser, Margarite Grim Owen, Arlene Grim, Charlotte Grim Georing, Chas. LaVern Gunder, Lois Hastings Lassond, Lynette Heazlit Gray, Charles Herr, Edward Herr, Mildred Herr, Charles Klein, H. J. Kohli, Mary Ellen Kohli, Ada Packard, Alice Packard, Delbert Packard, Dorla Packard, Lillian Packard Esterle, Arlene Pitz Walters, Brigitte Pleines, Alice Robinette, June Tomasch Lons, Addie Walkden, Margaret Walkden Packard, Ann Whitman, Bertha Whitman, Mack Whitman, Mary Whitman Geiss, Robert Whitman, Kathyrn Wood, Delma Yoder Lance.

Margaret D. Clapp (Mrs. Avery)



-This history of Chatham Township has been compiled by the combined efforts of many people and reference to the "History of Medina County 1881", Atlas of Medina County 1874, "History of Medina County 1948", scrapbooks, letters, deeds and abstracts, pictures, memories, diaries and so forth. Credit goes to the following people for their contributions:

Miss Emma Webber

Bertha Kruggel Whitman (Mrs. Milan)

Dorothy Clapp Arters (Mrs. Albert)

Lillian Beach Williams (Mrs. Don)

Ernest T. Clapp

John and Clara Wertz

Herbert Hahn

Mrs. Frances Brinker

Alma Kent Meyers (Mrs. Charles)

Edna Flemming Yergin (Mrs. Harold)

Harriet Brinker Pitz (Mrs. Ernest)

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Beach

Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Allis

Mr. & Mrs. Fenton Shaw

Maxine Chapman Cotner (Mrs. Harold)

Fern Grim Alleman (Mrs. A.E.)

George Krieger

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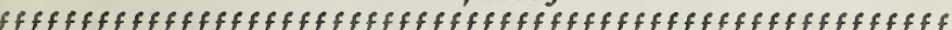
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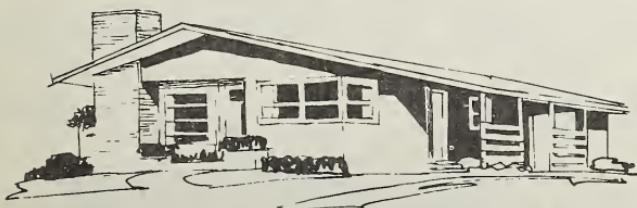
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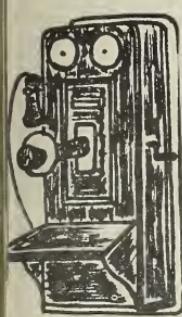
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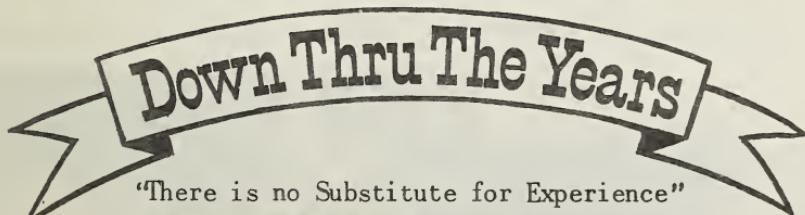
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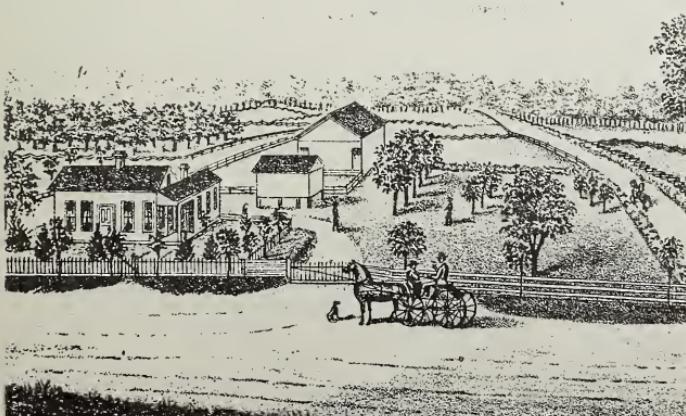
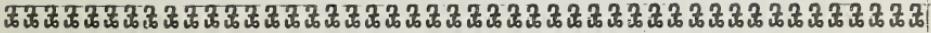


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